Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 235 | THURSDAY OCTOBER 1, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
As of September 30, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Founding Day
A grand ceremony is set today in Beijing to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of China.

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'Imperfect'
Mariah Carey has finally proven that her formidable talent extends to more than just her voice.

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'Proposed investor rules exclude legitimate businesses' PAGE 3
'Govt now pays 16 pct. contribution rate, remits taxes' PAGE 5

Nearly 100 dead in Samoa tsunami

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE and KENI LESA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

APIA, Samoa (AP)—A powerful earthquake in the South Pacific hurled a massive tsunami at the shores of Samoa and American Samoa, flattening villages and sweeping cars and people out to sea, leaving at least 99 dead and dozens missing.

See TSUNAMI on Page 4

A pickup truck lies under a pile of rubble from a business structure in Pago Pago, American Samoa after tsunami waves swept ashore early Tuesday Sept. 29, 2009. Inset, people walk among a scene of devastation following a powerful quake, in Pago Pago village. AP

Sympathy, prayers for tsunami-ravaged Samoas

Babauta postpones Saipan visit to head for disaster area

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI and federal officials yesterday separately expressed their sympathies and offered prayers to the people of American Samoa and neighbor Samoa after a magnitude 8.0 quake and tsunamis hit the areas, leaving at least 99 people dead and scores of people injured as of press time yesterday.

President Barack Obama declared a major disaster in American Samoa late Tuesday and ordered federal aid

See SYMPATHY on Page 4

$1M water bottling firm, $10M casino to rise on Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

After more than a year of controversy over ownership and alleged trespassing on public lands, the new owner of Rota Resort & Country Club yesterday not only signed a formal lease deal with the Department of Public Lands but also announced an initial $1 million worth of water bottling facility and a $10

See ROTA on Page 4

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial presents to the media yesterday Rota Resort & Country Club's new owner Hee Kyun Cho, right, and Tony Kim, left, who will manage Rota Resort LLC's $1 million water bottling facility that will open in early 2010. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CAMACHO QUITS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CPA board accused of micromanaging—again

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Camacho

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho resigned from his post yesterday, telling the board of directors he can no longer continue working with the agency due to the interference of board members in CPA's operation.

Camacho's resignation is effective Friday, Oct. 2, at 4pm.

See CAMACHO on Page 4

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Local

Another lawmaker seeks probe of Mobil, Shell

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) has asked consumer counsel Michael Ernest of the Office of the Attorney General to investigate Mobil and Shell for not lowering their pump prices despite a recent drop in the cost of crude oil.

For years, Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) has been asking OAG to investigate Mobil and Shell's alleged price fixing.

In June, Torres also asked the U.S. Department of Justice for what he describes as a "disturbing and blatant case of price fixing" in the CNMI by the two oil giants.

In a Sept. 28 letter to Ernest, Crisostimo said the CNMI has yet to see a significant change in the pump price of gas despite the continued drop in the price of crude oil.

"As of close of business last week, September 25, 2009, the crude oil cost per barrel was $66. With this decrease in fuel, we should have seen an adjustment at the fuel pump for either Shell or Mobil but, to date, [there's] none whatsoever. Therefore, I have reason to believe that some sort of collusion is taking place and we, the consumers, are the victims here," Crisostimo told Ernest.

Ernest, when asked for comment yesterday, said he looks forward to responding to Crisostimo in writing, and will follow up with an in-person meeting with him if he so requests.

Ernest, however, didn't receive a copy of Crisostimo's letter from the senator's office but through the media yesterday afternoon.

"As our newly appointed AG consumer counsel, I ask that you investigate this matter promptly and report your findings to my office. These fuel providers should be given notice that the people of the CNMI should not be taken advantage of and should be availed of the adjustment that is due to them," Crisostimo said in his one-page letter to Ernest.

Mobil and Shell's latest round of fuel price increase was on Aug. 31. They raised the pump price of regular and super unleaded as well as diesel gasoline by 10 cents. It brought to $3.479 a gallon the price of regular self-serve gasoline at both Mobil and Shell service stations.

The Aug. 31 price change marked the fifth round of fuel price increase on Saipan this year, bringing to 65 cents the total price increase so far in 2009.

Mobil and Shell have not been announcing each price change in advance of the actual cost adjustment. Motorists know about them only when they see the price displays at service stations reflecting the new rates.

Pension bonds and elimination of money managers cited as solutions to Fund mess

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Four gubernatorial candidates bared their plans on how they intend to solve the problems of the NMI Retirement Fund, which is teetering on the edge due to unfunded liabilities and other obligations.

During Tuesday night's forum with Commonwealth retirees at the Multi-Purpose Center, several ideas were offered on how to resuscitate the Fund, including a revival of the $20 million pension obligation bond proposal and the elimination of investment consultants and money managers who they believe compound the agency's fiscal problems.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said his administration-initiated pension obligation bond would save the program by converting the Fund's unfunded liability into a government debt. If ratified, he said, this would remove the Fund's deficit because the government will carry the obligation.

"We strongly believe that this is a viable solution to the present problem of our retirement program," Fitial said, adding the Legislature failed to act on this recommendation in the last eight months.

Fitial, the Covenant Party's standard bearer, said the establishment of a financial master plan will also help solve the Fund's concerns.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, standard-bearer of the Republican Party, emphasized that "seriousness" in honoring contracts is vital toward addressing the Fund problem. He vowed to respect "any contract" made by his administration with the Fund if elected governor.

"We must also pay attention to the economy if we want to save the Fund and our future retirees," he added.

Independent gubernatorial bet Ramon 'Kumoi" Deleon Guerrero vowed to repeal of Public Law 15-15, which mandates an 11 percent employer contribution rate.

Deleon Guerrero also vowed to pay the Fund $150 million in four years, with the money to be sourced from the "savings" that will be realized once the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is privatized and to stop hiring investment consultants and money managers.

"These options are realistic… and I will make sure our Retirement Fund will work," he said.

Juan T. Guerrero, also an independent candidate, also committed to finding solutions to the Fund's problems.

He said his administration will continue the suspension of refund payments until such time the agency is in good financial standing; the suspension of post-adoption after retirement for the purpose of benefits; and will minimize, if not eliminate, drawdowns from the investment funds.

To date, the Fund reported over $130 million drawdowns in its investment since 2005.

Guerrero is the former chairman of the Fund board of trustees, which adopted all these measures to save the Fund from collapse.

'Retirement board to be blamed'

Deleon Guerrero said that retirees must also be aware that besides the participation of the government and the Legislature, the Fund's board of trustees must not also be spared from the blame.

"People always blame the government…the Legislature. But how about the Fund board? Do you really know what the board is doing or where it invested your money? Are you aware that the agency lost $82 million in its investment? Are you not concerned?" Deleon Guerrero told the crowd, adding that his administration will eliminate the hiring of investment consultants and money managers.

He particularly attacked the contract agreement with investment consultant Merrill Lynch, which recently asked an increase in fees.

The jam-packed two-hour forum at the Multi-Purpose Center was organized by the Commonwealth Retirees Association.

Each candidates picked questions all relating to Fund issues and were provided time to give closing remarks.

Also in attendance were all the contenders for lieutenant governor positions, including Eloy S. Inos, Arnold Palacios, Joseph Camacho, and David Borja.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month

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Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

'Proposed investor rules exclude legitimate businesses'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The first two public comments on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's proposed E-2 CNMI investor status rule point to the exclusion of some legitimate long-term foreign investors in the Northern Marianas.

DHS' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services issued the proposed regulations on Sept. 15.

The first comment was posted on the federal government's regulations.gov Web site on Sept. 21 and the second on Sept. 28.

Lawyer Richard W. Pierce, who has his own law firm, said DHS' proposed regulations omit a sub-category of the long-term investor visa.

He said the CNMI historically has provided long-term investor visas to top managers of hotels and other facilities where the parent firm—that is the investor—is an alien corporation.

"The Hyatt and Hafa Adai [hotels], for instance, are owned by Japanese corporations. Current managers of the hotels may not be eligible for L visas (because of the requirement that he/she worked in a foreign country prior to application) but they will have their CNMI long term permits," Pierce told DHS.

Pierce asked DHS to alter its proposed regulations "to permit this type of long-term permit holder to have the benefit of the E-2 CNMI visa."

DHS is set to implement on Nov. 28 Public Law 110-229, which federalizes CNMI immigration.

So far, DHS has issued only its visa waiver program regulations and the proposed E-2 CNMI investor visa. It has yet to publish the proposed CNMI-only transitional worker program.

Fred Prinz, a Canadian citizen who has lived on Saipan for 20 years and established a business on island, asked DHS to take into account his concerns, including being deprived of his real property investment, and being forced to have his family split because his wife and two adopted children will have no visa for Canada or the U.S. if the investor regulations as proposed will be adopted with finality.

"The published rules governing long-term business entities such as myself seem to exclude us from continued residence after the end of the transition period scheduled for 2014, unless we qualify for a standard U.S. investment visa, which I'm not sure we'll qualify for," said Prinz.

The Saipan economy has been depressed for many years now.

"We're still financially OK, but to qualify under new U.S. investment rules at this point in time has me fearful that my life's savings are at risk of being taken away," he said.

Prinz leased property on Saipan in January 1990 for a 55-year period and has built four insulated homes on the property, which he uses for rental income and for his own personal residence.

"This new regulation seems to be harshly unfair, since this action has the potential to strip and deprive my family of our rightful use of this investment property. As a Canadian citizen, I've had no opportunity for my wife and children to become residents of Canada, since we've been living here on Saipan all these years. I'm very fearful that if this issue is left unresolved, this will eventually force my family to be split up, as they will have no visa for Canada, or the U.S.," he said.

With the CNMI real estate market as depressed as it is, Prinz said he has no hope of even getting close to recovering his financial investment and therefore, will be forced to leave with no means to continue after a lifetime of hard work.

"I respectfully ask that you take into account these issues presented above, when making the final rules governing our lives and our livelihoods. We have satisfied all requirements to date. I can only recommend that the rule governing the transition will take this into account and allow us to transition smoothly without having new requirements and burdens placed upon us that we may not be able to meet," he added.

A copy of DHS's proposed investor rule and the comments posted so far are available online at

http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=USCIS-2008-0035

Comments on the proposed rule are due on Oct. 14.

Applicants would be required to apply for an E-2 CNMI investor status either before the start of the transition date of Nov. 28, or within the first two years following the start of the transition period.

Because an E-2 CNMI investor nonimmigrant status is a CNMI-only status, the rule proposes that each alien must be present in the CNMI or outside the United States at the time his or her application is filed with USCIS.

The proposed special status of E-2 investors would allow eligible CNMI investors to remain in the CNMI for the duration of the transition period under E-2 CNMI investor status.

At the end of the transition period, E-2 CNMI investors and qualifying spouses and children must qualify for and obtain an appropriate immigrant or non-immigrant status under the Immigration and Nationality Act in order to remain in the CNMI or to enter the CNMI after departure.

Detained lawyer faces suit for not paying office rent

Lawyer Antonio M. Atalig, who has been in detention since March 2008 for civil contempt, is now facing a lawsuit for failing to pay rent for his law office in Chalan Piao.

Sablan Enterprises Inc., through counsel Michael White, sued Atalig for breach of contract.

Sablan Enterprises asked the Superior Court to order Atalig to pay the rent of $7,655 plus interest of 9 percent per annum from April 15, 2009 up to the present.

White said the plaintiff is also entitled to pre-judgment interest.

Atalig's law office is located on the second floor at VSS Plaza in Chalan Piao.

Atalig and attorney Reynaldo Yana have been in jail since March 2008 after Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo found them in civil contempt for failing to return $1.3 million in attorneys' fees the two lawyers received from the Angel Malite estate.

Govendo said Atalig is to be imprisoned until he returns $500,000 in attorneys' fees. Yana is also ordered to return $200,000 in attorneys' fees. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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TSUNAMI

From Page 1

Survivors fled the fast-churning water for higher ground and remained huddled there hours after the quake struck early Tuesday. Signs of devastation were everywhere, with a giant boat washed ashore lying on the edge of a highway and floodwaters swallowing up cars and homes.

The quake, with a magnitude between 8.0 and 8.3, struck around dawn about 125 miles (200 kilometers) from Samoa, an island nation of 180,000 people located about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii. It struck about 120 miles (190 kilometers) from neighboring American Samoa, a U.S. territory that is home to 65,000 people.

Four tsunami waves 15 to 20 feet (4 to 6 meters) high roared ashore on American Samoa, reaching up to a mile (1.6 kilometers) inland, Mike Reynolds, superintendent of the National Park of American Samoa, was quoted as saying by a parks service spokeswoman.

Hampered by power and communications outages, officials struggled to determine damage and casualties.

Samoan police commissioner Lilo Maiava told The Associated Press that police there had confirmed 63 deaths but that officials were still searching the devastated areas, so the number of deaths might rise soon.

Hundreds of injured people were being treated by health workers, and people were still struggling into centers seeking treatment, Maiava said.

At least 30 people were killed on American Samoa, Gov. Togiola Tulafono said, adding that the toll was expected to rise as emergency crews were recovering bodies overnight.

"I don't think anybody is going to be spared in this disaster," said Tulafono, who was in Hawaii for a conference.

In Washington, President Barack Obama declared a disaster for American Samoa. The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it was deploying teams to provide support and assess damage.

Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi looked shaken Wednesday on board a flight from Auckland, New Zealand, to the Samoan capital of Apia.

"So much has gone. So many people are gone," he told reporters on board. "I'm so shocked, so saddened by all the loss."

Malielegaoi said his own village of Lepa was destroyed.

"Thankfully, the alarm sounded on the radio and gave people time to climb to higher ground," he said. "But not everyone escaped."

Gov. Tulafono told reporters in Hawaii that a member of his extended family was among the dead in American Samoa.

Because the closeness of the community, "each and every family is going to be affected by someone who's lost their life," he said as he boarded a Coast Guard C-130 plane in Hawaii to return home. The plane, which also carried FEMA officials and aid, was scheduled to arrive at about 7 a.m. local time. (2 p.m. EDT; 1800 GMT)

Authorities in Tonga confirmed at least six additional people dead in the island nation west of the Samoas, New Zealand's acting Prime Minister Bill English said. He said Tongan officials told him that four people were missing after the tsunami swept ashore on the northern island of Niua.

"There are a considerable number of people who've been swept out to sea and are unaccounted for," English said. "We don't have information about the full impact and we do have some real concern that over the next 12 hours the picture could look worse rather than better."

A New Zealand P3 Orion maritime surveillance airplane had reached the region Wednesday afternoon and had searched for survivors off the coast, he said. It was expected to resume searching at first light.

SYMPATHY

From Page 1

to supplement local efforts. The presidential declaration makes federal funding available to affected individuals in what's described as one of the worst to hit this Pacific area.

U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta postponed his scheduled visit to Saipan yesterday to travel instead to American Samoa to lend a hand in recovery efforts.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Babauta, in a joint statement, said their "thoughts and prayers go out to the people of American Samoa and all those in the region who have been affected by these natural disasters."

"Our Office of Insular Affairs has been in constant communications with our employees on Tutuila and we are working closely with the American Samoa government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency on the federal response effort to assist the islands," they said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the CNMI is saddened by the tragedy that struck American Samoa and neighboring areas, and expressed deep sympathy to affected residents.

He said he immediately tried to get hold of his colleague, American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono, to extend his sincerest sympathy but Tulufano was in transit from Hawaii to American Samoa.

Fitial said his administration has also been in touch with American Samoans currently living and working in the CNMI, and stands ready to help should their relatives in their home territory are among those affected by the tragedy.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), for his part, said he has been in touch with the Interior throughout the afternoon and evening as the tragedy occurred and reports began to arrive in Washington, D.C.

Bob Schwalbach, Sablan's chief of staff, said Sablan also immediately contacted Delegate Eni F.H. Faleomavaega of American Samoa.

"Mr. Sablan said that his heart goes out to the people of American Samoa and that he will do everything he can as a member of Congress to make sure that all possible aid and assistance goes quickly to those whose lives have been struck by this sudden tragedy. Mr. Sablan also asks that the people of the Northern Mariana Islands offer a special prayer today for their fellow Pacific islanders in both American Samoa and Western Samoa," Schwalbach said.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and Fitial separately said that Babauta called them yesterday before noon to tell them of the postponement of his trip to Saipan because of the need to immediately proceed to American Samoa.

Return to the CNMI

Babauta said once the situation in American Samoa is stabilized, he will make plans to return to the CNMI.

"I am concerned with the magnitude and difficulty of the economic and immigration issues facing the CNMI and I hope to convey that this administration is committed to implementing U.S. immigration law with flexibility," Babauta said in a statement.

The federal government will take over CNMI immigration on Nov. 28 as set by Public Law 110-229.

This could have been Babauta's first visit to the CNMI in his new position with the Obama administration.

"Our hearts and our prayers go out to our fellow islanders in Samoa during this difficult time," Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios said in a joint statement.

Reyes, in a phone interview, said he told Babauta that the CNMI sympathizes with American Samoa.

"I pray that none of this kind of tragedy happen in the CNMI. If there's something that the CNMI can do to help, we're ready. We can start by offering our prayers for them," Reyes said.

Federal support

Interior's Salazar and Babauta said FEMA, which is the lead agency for coordinating the federal response, has been in touch with Tulafono of American Samoa, is in constant contact with the territory's emergency responders, and is closely monitoring the activities associated with the quake and tsunami events.

FEMA administrator W. Craig Fugate, in a statement, said FEMA has activated its National Response Coordination Center, as well as its Regional Response Coordination Center in Region IX, in order to support American Samoa as they respond to the earthquake and resulting tsunami in the Pacific Ocean.

The federal agency is also working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard and deploying an Incident Management Assistance Team, as well as a Planning and Response Team to American Samoa to provide support and on the ground assessment.

A tsunami warning was raised in the CNMI at 7:45am yesterday but this was soon cancelled at 8:15am.

ROTA

From Page 1

million casino projects.

Hee Kyun Cho, owner of Rota Resort & Country Club, said he has invested close to $10 million to take over ownership of the biggest hotel on Rota.

Cho said the bottling water facility may open as early as February or March 2010, employing 10 new individuals on Rota and will also export bottled water to Japan, Korea, and other destinations.

The initial investment for the facility is $1 million but if successful, the investment may grow to $10 million to $15 million, employing over 100 people, he added.

Cho also said they will start with a boutique casino style and expand it at a later time. He said they are still working with the Rota Casino and Gaming Commission for a casino license.

"From the moment I first went there, I fell in love with Rota," said Cho, when asked about his interest on the island. "Rota is beautiful. Rota has attractions that tourists like."

Public Lands Secretary John DelRosario and Cho signed a lease agreement in front of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, other government officials and the media in the Governor's Conference Room on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon.

The assignment of lease is for the remaining 15 years of a 35-year public land lease agreement between DPL and the original owner of Rota Resort & Country Club, SNM Corp.

In August 2008, JMSH LLC, a holding company that owns Alupang Beach Tower, Garden Villa Holiday Resort and other property on Guam, announced that it had purchased Rota Resort & Country Club.

Rota Resort LLC, a branch of JMSH LLC, had since been operating the resort.

A controversy ensued when DPL said the new owners of the Rota Resort & Country Club might be trespassing on public lands after failing to obtain approval from DPL for their purchase of the 600-acre complex. Later, SNM Corp. said DPL knew about the purchase as early as June 6, 2008 when it wrote DPL's DelRosario a letter.

In that letter, SNM Corp. executive president Michinori Matsumura said that he had engaged in a "stock purchase agreement" to transfer "100 percent" of his company's shares in the resort to Rota Resort LLC, its new owner.

Fitial and DelRosario said yesterday they welcome the investments of Rota Resort LLC. Fitial said he will be meeting with the Rota Casino Gaming Commission to discuss Rota Resort LLC's casino project. The rescheduled meeting will be held on Oct. 9 on Rota in time for the island's San Isidro fiesta, the governor said.

Had Rota Resort LLC not stepped in, Rota's economy will further weaken, DelRosario said.

Cho said no other investors could have contributed to Rota economy at this time. He said the casino project will target markets different from those tapped by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino and other casino investors.

In the same news briefing yesterday, Fitial said he will file a formal complaint with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration over "breach of protocol" for not informing him of an ongoing investigation into his former driver, Pete Reyes. He said if the allegations against Reyes were true, his life and that of his family could have been in danger for months from those who buy "ice" from Reyes.

Reyes was charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute. He allegedly used Fitial's vehicle to sell "ice," sometimes right after dropping off the governor at his office on Capital Hill.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

He was warned he could be sued for failing to give the standard 30-day notice. His response? "Go ahead."

During yesterday's meeting, Camacho stood before the board and expressed disappointment over how certain board members interfere in CPA's operation, undermining his ability to carry out his duties as chief executive officer of the agency.

Camacho, who was hired in November 2008, had replaced Clyde Norita, who had also resigned due to the same reason—the board's micromanagement. At that time, the board was under the leadership of Rex I. Palacios.

Camacho earlier told the board about his decision not to renew his contract, which expires on Nov. 8, but he said yesterday he can no longer continue working at CPA.

"I cannot continue and do my work for CPA because the board interferes and undermines my capability to carry out my duty as the executive director of this agency," Camacho said.

He cited in particular the interference of board member Benigno Sablan on many occasions.

He said he lost the energy and drive to do what's best for CPA and decided to depart early from the agency.

In the ensuing deliberation, Sablan reminded Camacho he has a contract with the agency, which requires a 30-day notification before his departure from CPA. "That's your reason…but we have a contract!" Sablan said.

He warned of a possible lawsuit against Camacho.

"If you want to sue me…go ahead. But I cannot continue anymore," Camacho replied.

He cited a specific instance of board "interference" when he was not consulted on three of the five topics in the meeting agenda, despite being the top management official.

Sablan responded that Camacho signed the notice of meeting. "But you signed it," he said.

"This [micromanaging] has happened not just once…," Camacho told *Saipan Tribune*, declining to reveal other instances of Sablan's interference.

Sablan described Camacho's Friday departure as "unacceptable" and immediately moved for an executive session without Camacho's participation.

Saipan Tribune learned that Camacho, prior to yesterday's meeting, had brought up Sablan's authority to call for a meeting and place topics on the agenda with the chairman and vice chairman of the board, Jose Lifoifoi and Thomas Villagomez.

'No case against Camacho'

After over an hour of the closed-door meeting, Lifoifoi disclosed that, although Sablan wants a case filed against Camacho, the rest of the board have agreed to accept Camacho's decision.

"We decided to let him go…" Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune*, citing the case of Norita who was not also sued by the board.

"This has happened before and we don't want to repeat it…" the chairman said.

Lifoifoi had previously expressed satisfaction with Camacho's performance, whom he credited for the many good things happening at the agency.

CPA was in state of emergency due to problems in its airport and seaport bond indenture agreements prior to Camacho's appointment.

Lifoifoi refused to comment when asked if the entire board practices micromanagement.

Camacho, who served as executive director and staff engineer for the agency, now plans to re-open his EFC Engineers & Architects firm.

'Govt now pays 16 pct. contribution rate, remits taxes'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Contrary to allegations about the government's "insincerity" in complying with a court judgment that ordered it to pay over $231 million to the NMI Retirement Fund, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial disclosed that they are complying with the judgment and in fact has already made initial payments to the agency.

Speaking to over a hundred guests in a gubernatorial forum held Tuesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center, Fitial said the government now pays its employer contributions at the court-ordered 16 percent rate and is remitting the required alcohol and hotel occupancy taxes to the Fund, just a month after the court judgment.

The Superior Court had determined in June that the government owes the Fund over $231 million for the many years it failed to pay employer contributions.

Fitial said three payments have been already made at the 16 percent contribution rate—the first on Aug. 5, the second on Aug. 19 and the third was on Sept. 12.

He said these payments were made despite the existence of a public law that mandates an 11 percent employer's contribution rate.

Fitial said the first payment of taxes covering Aug. 1-31 was also remitted to the Fund.

"We are now also consistently remitting the required taxes pursuant to the court judgment…and we will continue do so," he said.

He said proof of his administration's seriousness to address the problem is the creation of a negotiating team comprising financial experts to study other viable options to fulfill the court order.

Yesterday, Fund administrator Mark Aguon confirmed receiving the three employer contribution payments from the government at the 16 percent rate and one remittance of taxes.

TROPICAL STORM 18W DISSIPATES

New dangerous storm heading to Marianas

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tropical Storm 18W's center dissipated in the Rota Channel yesterday afternoon, but residents of CNMI and Guam have been warned of a potentially dangerous tropical cyclone—Tropical Storm Melor.

As of 3:30pm, Gov. Benigno Fitial declared an "all clear conditions" for Rota as Tropical Storm 18W moved away from the Marianas.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, the center of Tropical Storm18W dissipated in the Rota Channel or west of Rota at 4pm. The storm was downgraded to tropical depression.

At 1pm, Tropical Storm 18W was weakening as it moved northwest at 22mph and passed through the Rota Channel between Guam and Rota. It was packing maximum sustained winds at 40 miles per hour.

Meanwhile, NWS advised NMI and Guam residents to closely monitor the movement of the potentially dangerous Tropical Storm Melor that was moving toward the Marianas.

As of 1pm, the center of Tropical Storm Melor was 380 miles northeast of Chuuk and 400 miles northwest of Pohnpei. This is 680 miles east-southeast of Saipan and 720 miles east of Guam.

Packing maximum sustained winds at 45mph, Tropical Storm Melor was moving west-northwest at 17mph. It is expected to intensify today, Thursday.

Typhoon Parma 19W on the other hand, continued to move away from Ngulu and Yap as it intensified into the Philippine Sea.

CNMI's first 'weatherized' house set by end of October

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will have its first energy-efficient household—or "weatherized house"—in place by the end of this month, funded in part by the $30 million grants for sustainable energy programs under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

Energy Division director Thelma Inos of the Department of Public Works said they are still identifying the first house to be "weatherized."

This comes as the CNMI government is set to observe October as Energy Awareness Month, "Energy Star: Challenge a Light" on Oct. 7 and the "Weatherization Assistance Program Day" on Oct. 30.

The Weatherization Assistance Program is a residential energy efficiency program initiated by the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington D.C. in 1976. The CNMI was included in the program in March 2009 under the stimulus funding law.

Inos said they had just increased their staff at the DPW Energy Division to implement the program.

The staff briefed members of the steering committee for sustainable energy program for the CNMI during their regular meeting yesterday at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Michael Mann, who is coordinating the steering committee, said the meeting is to assess what the committee has done so far since they held their first meeting during the Energy Summit at Saipan World Resort two months ago.

Lorraine Seman, who is in charge of the weatherization assistance program for the CNMI, said they have scaled down their target to 173 households at this time. She explained that the program is not a full-blown one due to the limited funds in the ARRA grant.

Inos also announced that they have just launched their website (www.cnmienergy.com) yesterday. The criteria to apply for the WAP would be announced in two weeks time on the website.

She explained that this is just a pilot project for Saipan. Tinian and Rota will be given the same opportunity with another ARRA grant.

On Oct 7, the community will be asked to join the Energy Star pledge as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national "Change the World" campaign by committing to save energy and help voluntarily reduce greenhouse emissions by taking energy-saving actions in their homes.

One way for a household to join the campaign is to switch to Energy Star light bulbs and fixtures.

"If every home in the CNMI change one light bulb to one that has earned the Energy Star, we would save 3,494,131 kWh in electricity per year," the proclamation said.

This would result in an annual savings of $395,562 in energy costs while preventing 5,380,961 lbs of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

Happy 67th Birthday
ENG'R. NOMER R. FLORENDO
Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009
Celebration will be held
@ Rhatskie Restaurant
Tel. no. 233-2022

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Forfeiture complaint vs Tim's boat dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson has dismissed the U.S. government's forfeiture complaint against a boat owned by former lieutenant governor Timothy P. Villagomez.

Munson ordered the dismissal of the forfeiture complaint based on the U.S. government's motion to drop the civil action.

Munson ordered the boat be returned to Villagomez or any person who satisfies the requirements of the U.S. Marshal's Office.

The U.S. government last week moved to dismiss its forfeiture complaint against Villagomez's 31-foot Yamaha boat, *Dr. V*, after finding that the vessel is generally in "poor condition."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley said the U.S. government believes that pursuing the forfeiture action against *Dr. V* will likely result in a net loss to the government, even should it prevail on the merits.

The U.S. government filed the forfeiture suit against *Dr. V* on Aug. 6, 2009. Two days later, the U.S. Marshal's Office took custody of the boat.

FBI special agent Joseph Auther stated in his affidavit that during the trial of Villagomez and co-defendants James A. Santos and Joaquina Santos, it was established that Villagomez purchased the boat in 2006 for a price of between $45,000 and $60,000. Auther said the money used was received from James Santos and his wife Joaquina Santos.

In response to the forfeiture action, Villagomez, through counsel Leilani V. Lujan, asked the federal court to dismiss the forfeiture case and return the boat to him or his representative.

In the event a forfeiture is granted, Lujan asked the court to issue an order to compensate Villagomez for the value of his interest in the boat.

In the government's motion to dismiss on Tuesday, O'Malley said the complaint was filed on the belief that the boat constitutes proceeds of a criminal activity, specifically from the scheme that got Villagomez convicted on April 24, 2009.

EEOC files sex harassment suit vs company

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has filed a sexual harassment lawsuit in federal court against a company for allegedly not taking action on a complaint filed by a female employee against a manager.

EEOC, through Regional Attorney Anna Y. Park, sued Pacific Airport Services Inc. and 10 PASI officers or agents.

Saipan Tribune contacted PASI for comments yesterday afternoon, but a staff suggested a visit to their office and an appointment with their boss.

EEOC asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to stop PASI and its officers from engaging in any unlawful employment practices, including sexual harassment.

EEOC asked the court to require PASI to institute and carry out policies, practices and programs that provide equal employment opportunities, and which eradicate the effects of its alleged past and present unlawful employment practices.

The commission also asked the court to require PASI to pay the alleged victim damages and back pay with interest.

Park stated in the complaint that PASI subjected the complainant and other female employees to sexual harassment, resulting in a hostile work environment and constructive discharge.

Park said the EEOC found that the company failed to take effective action to resolve the hostile work environment.

Since at least Aug. 20, 2006, Park said, PASI has engaged in unlawful employment practices and in a pattern of such practices.

Park said the PASI manager would physically touch the complainant and other female employees in an unwelcome manner. The manager would also ask the complainants sexually suggestive questions and made other sexually suggestive comments and acts, Park said.

Park said the complaining woman brought the issue to her supervisor and other management officials, yet PASI took no action against the manager. On Aug. 26, 2006, the complainant wrote a letter to the company's president complaining about the continued sexual harassment.

Finally, due to lack of action into her complaints, the woman was compelled to submit her resignation on Jan. 24, 2007, according to Park.

Bank of Hawaii
is proud to have earned the ranking
of America's #1 Performing Bank.

–Banking's Top Performers, 2008
American Bankers Association *Banking Journal*

Recently, the experts at the American Bankers Association *Banking Journal* completed their annual performance rankings of financial institutions. And of all the publicly traded large financial institutions in the U.S., Bank of Hawaii Corporation earned the #1 spot as the Top Performing Bank for 2008. It's an achievement we at Bank of Hawaii are proud and honored to accept on behalf of our 2,500 employees. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, Bank of Hawaii has not only earned this tremendous recognition, but something much more important: your trust and your confidence. To read the ABA *Banking Journal* article in its entirety, please visit boh.com/safe.

Bank of Hawaii

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MHS teacher earns two forensic accreditations

Harold Easton, a teacher at Marianas High School on Saipan, has received both the Professional Forensic Educator and the Professional Forensic Coach accreditations through the National Forensic League.

This important recognition recognizes excellence in forensic education through competitive success, longevity in the field, and commitment to continuing education. While the NFL is home to over 9,000 active educators, only a select number achieve this important distinction.

Professional NFL accreditations are significant because they indicate that a school has outstanding educators in place to teach essential life skills—communication, research listening, writing, and organization. The work of a forensic professional requires a high level of passion and commitment, but generates tremendous benefits for students and communities.

The National Forensic League is the nation's oldest and largest speech and debate honor society. To date, over 1.3 million alumni have found their voice in the National Forensic League. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-006

PURCHASE OF PACIFIC AND ADULT MATERIALS FOR THE TINIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
(This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of Pacific and Adult Materials for the Tinian Public Library.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB09-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, October 19, 2009.**

Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Monday, October 19, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 19, 2009**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **October 28, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 8:00 a.m., local time, October 29, 2009. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time on October 19, 2009.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Breast, cervical cancer screening requirements waived this month

All requirements for breast cancer and cervical cancer screening exams such as pap smears, breast exams, and mammograms will be waived during the entire month of October.

Screening program coordinator Jocelyn Songsong announced this during Tuesday's proclamation signing of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Based on the requirements set by the program, a patient will be screened for free if she is 18 years of age and older, has resided in the CNMI for at least one year, meets income guidelines, and has no medical/health insurance or has medical/health insurance that requires co-payment.

Songsong said those with Medicaid would not be included.

The income guidelines as determined by family size are the following: one family member (a maximum of $20,660), two ($27,880), three ($35,100), four ($42,320), five ($49,540), six ($56,760), seven ($63,980), eight ($71,200).

Songsong said these requirements would be waived for the whole month of October as part of the awareness campaign activities that include the reactivation of the mobile clinic.

The mobile clinic would be set up during the Family Fun Day this Saturday, Oct. 3, from 8am to 11am, at Lao Lao Bay, then at the Pacific Islands Club and at the Northern Marianas College.

There will also be a forum on Oct. 10 on Tinian, Oct. 12 on Rota and Oct. 24 on Saipan.

Breast cancer is the second largest cause of cancer deaths in women across the United States, exceeded only by lung cancer.

The mammogram, an x-ray picture of the breast, is recognized as the most effective method of detecting breast changes that may be cancer long before physical symptoms can be seen or felt in women 40 years of age and older.

It is advised that clinical breast exams be performed by a health provider and a breast self-examination be practiced by women 20 years of age and older on a regular basis.

Five breast or cervical cancer survivors were present during the signing ceremonies: Bobbi Grizzard (20-year survivor), Magdalena Camacho (5 years), Monie Manalo (8 years), Nora Sablan (6 years), and Donna White (5 years). ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670.664.4067 FAX: 670.664.4069

ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective **October 1, 2009**, the CNMI WIC Authorized Vendors are as follows:

New Saipan Stores: Sara Market II, Capital Hill
San Jose Mart, San Jose
Super Fresh Market, Chalan Kanoa

Current Stores:
Saipan: I-Mart, Tanapag
Kagman Market, Kagman
Han Nam Market, Koblerville
Joeten Dandan Supermarket, Dandan
Joeten Hafa Adai Supermarket, Garapan

Rota: Sinapalo Safeway, Sinapalo
Lucky Store, Songsong

Tinian: Fleming Store, San Jose Village

Above Authorized Vendors, as well as Authorized Farmer's Market Vendors will be accepting WIC Cash Value Vouchers (CVV's) for approved fruits and vegetables. These locally grown produce will be available (effective October 1, 2009), at the Sabalu Market (Civic Center, Susupe) and the Tuesday Night Market (Garapan Fishing Base).

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Fabian M. Ulloa, WIC Vendor Coordinator at (670) 664-4071, email, fabianu@cnmiwic.org or fax (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary, Department of Public Health

/s/ Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director

Fight the Flu
GET YOUR FLU SHOT AT FHP

FHP FLU VACCINE CLINIC FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

If you haven't had your flu immunization yet, now is the time to get it.

$5 COPAY for TakeCare Members

Saturday, October 3, 2009
from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
and
Saturday, October 31, 2009
from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

FHP Health Center
(Oleai Business Center-1st Floor, Suite 108)

No need for appointment, come as you are.

Call customer service at 235-0994 for more information.

Please bring your TakeCare ID card and your immunization card.

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COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's Decision and Order, Docket 09-01 of September 3, 2009, maintains the Levelized Energy Adjustment Clause (LEAC) rate at $0.20147 per kWh. LEAC primarily reflects CUC's cost of oil. The rate remains effective October 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010. The LEAC rate, and all other rates and charges, remain in force until revised by order of the Commission.

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGES (FIXED)	RATES PER KILOWATT-HOUR (kWh)		
		ELECTRIC NON-FUEL RATES (FIXED)	LEAC RATE	TOTAL RATES PER kWh
RESIDENTIAL	$ 5.60			
1. First 500 kWh (1 To 500)		$ 0.016	$0.20147	$ 0.21747
2. Second 500 kWh (501 To 1,000)		0.066	0.20147	0.26747
3. Next 1,000 kWh (1,001 To 2,000)		0.086	0.20147	0.28747
4. All kWh After 2,000 (Over 2,000)		0.127	0.20147	0.32847
COMMERCIAL (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.086	$0.20147	$ 0.28747
GOVERNMENT (All kWh Billed)	$ 7.67	$ 0.091	$0.20147	$ 0.29247
NON-CONFORMING LOAD (All kWh Billed)	$ 56.00	$ 0.222	$0.20147	$ 0.42347

PREVIOUS ELECTRIC FUEL/LEAC RATES

JANUARY 2008	$	0.258	AUGUST 2008	$	0.413
FEBRUARY 2008	$	0.253	SEPTEMBER 2008	$	0.362
MARCH 2008 (RES. ONLY)	$	0.176	OCTOBER 2008	$	0.337
MARCH 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$	0.288	NOVEMBER 2008	$	0.270
APRIL 2008 (RES. ONLY)	$	0.176	DECEMBER 2008	$	0.207
APRIL 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$	0.327	JANUARY 2009	$	0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/1 - 2/08)	$	0.176	FEBRUARY 2009	$	0.22989
MAY 2008 (RES. ONLY, 5/3 - 31/08)	$	0.357	MARCH 2009	$	0.22989
MAY 2008 (ALL OTHERS)	$	0.357	APRIL 1 - 2, 2009	$	0.22989
JUNE 2008	$	0.387	APRIL 3 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2009	$	0.20147
JULY 2008	$	0.413			

Call for Hall of Fame nominations

Off the Beaten Path, a local non-profit organization founded in 2005 to promote community awareness of social and cultural issues and to raise funds to donate to charitable groups in the CNMI, announces the presentation of its biennial Hall of Fame award.

The Hall of Fame is a way of recognizing CNMI residents who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the social and cultural enrichment of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

OBP is now accepting nominations of individuals deserving of this important award. Nominees must be a resident of the CNMI and should exhibit some or all of the following qualities: interest in community service, dedication to the advancement of humanity, respect for cultural preservation, volunteerism, strong character and charisma, leadership, and altruism.

Recipients of OBP Hall of Fame awards are recognized at an Off the Beaten Path event that ties in with a fundraiser for a local charity. This year's winner will be honored at the "Thanksmas" celebration to be held at the Hyatt Regency on Dec. 5, 2009. The proceeds from "Thanksmas" will be donated to the Autism Society of the CNMI.

Submit nominations by e-mail to obpcnmi@gmail.com and include a brief letter summarizing the efforts of the nominated individual. Nominations will be accepted until Nov. 10, 2009**.** ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans Day planning meeting

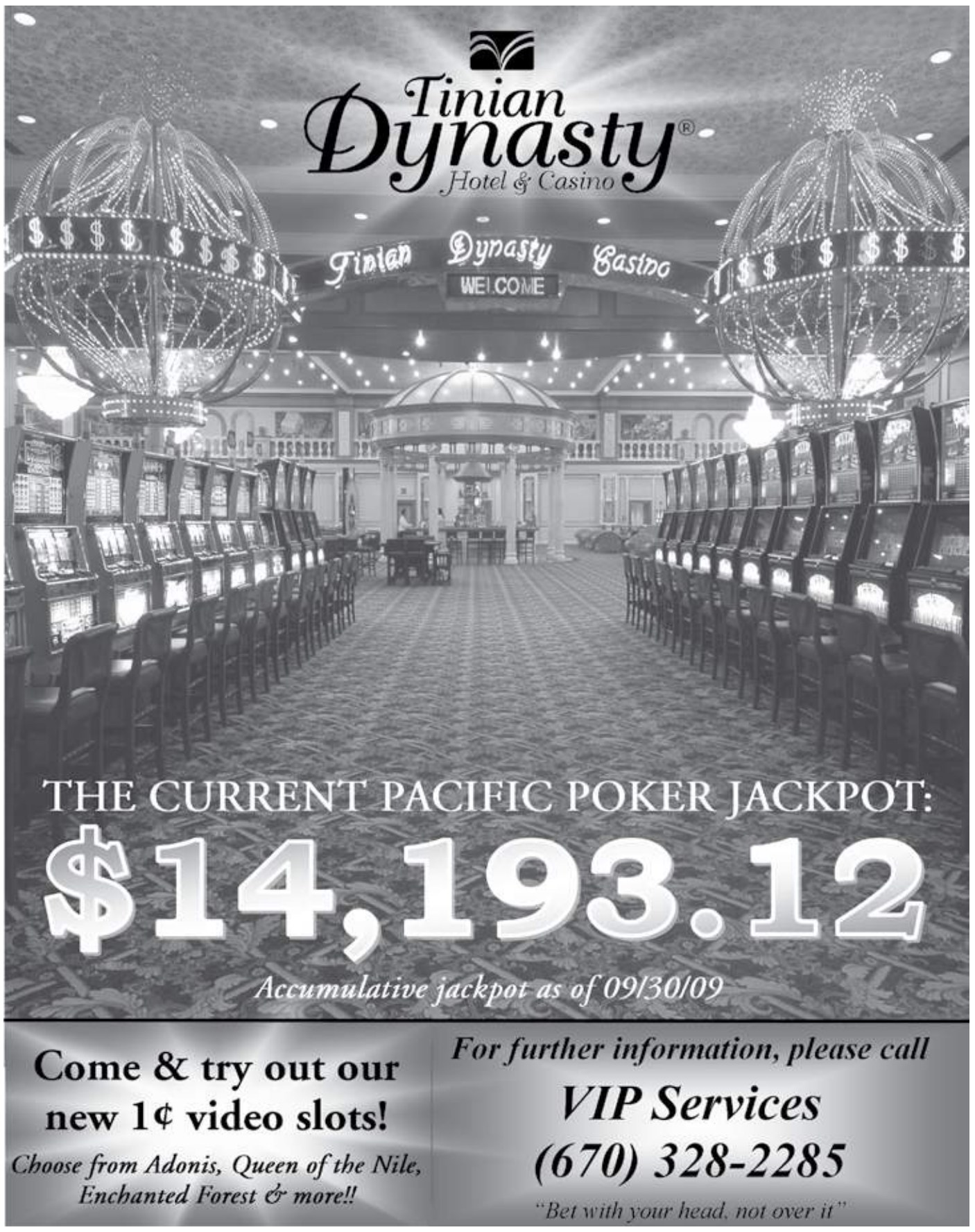
Nov. 11, 2009, Veterans Day, is a day to pay tribute and thank all who served and are serving today in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Veterans Day Committee will plan and execute this year's Veterans Day ceremony. If you are interested in being a part of this year's Veterans Day Committee, we will begin to meet every Tuesdays at 9am starting on Oct. 6, 2009, at the office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. For more information, call 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Beautify CNMI meeting today

The monthly Beautify CNMI meeting will be held today, Oct. 1, 2009, at the Division of Environmental Quality at 3:30pm. For questions, contact Joe Kaipat at DEQ at 664 8500. ***(PR)***

Precinct 3 GOP Bingo fundraiser

The GOP precinct club of election Precinct 3 is hosting a BINGO fundraiser at the Garapan Central Park on Friday, Oct. 2, 2009. Tickets (BINGO packages) are for sale at $20 per package and $25 at the door. Each player is guaranteed seven games with multiple options and game presentations to give each participant a fair chance in winning prizes. Door opens at 5:30pm, early bird starts at 6:30pm, and package game starts at 7:30pm. All participants must be at least 18 years old! You may get your tickets by contacting the following individuals and they will assist you: Ana D. Castro at 287-1306; Cheryl D. Salalila at 285-6841; or BJ Attao 285-2826. ***(PR)***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"Bet with your head, not over it"

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 1, 1999

Teno wants INS to change agreement

There will be delay in the reimbursement to the CNMI of the costs incurred from hosting more than 600 illegal Chinese immigrants on Tinian after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio asked to change some provisions of a memorandum of agreement allowing release of the federal money. Ferdinand Aranza, director of the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs, said some $950,000 have been set aside by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to pay the Commonwealth for expenditures during the Tinian operations.

Boat People trial: Each witness earns $128 per day

The alien smuggling trial has revealed that each of the prosecution's six material witnesses is making $128 a day—or about 400 percent higher than the CNMI's minimum wage workers' daily earnings. Based on the per diem rate, the federal government spends a total of $23,000 per month on the allowances of the six witnesses, who have been asked to testify against six defendants charged with alien smuggling. The witnesses, who were among the 51 undocumented passengers aboard a Chinese fishing vessel interdicted by the US Coast Guard last April, were not charged with any crime. Federal authorities earlier sent them to California, and brought them back to Saipan last Aug. 23 to prepare for the trial.

Oct. 1, 2001

'Gov't revenues may drop to $193M'

Three years from now, unless a major new industry establishes itself in the Commonwealth or a major expansion happens in the tourism sector, the CNMI expects its General Fund revenue to plummet from $245 million to a heart-stopping $193 million. This was disclosed by Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen, who said the CNMI may be in for some serious problems in the future, even as its economy remains in a stupor arising from the terrorist attacks in the US mainland. During a meeting of the Association of Government Accountants at the Dai-Ichi Hotel on Friday, Nielsen said the current revenue trend indicate that from the 1996-1997 level of $248 million, the General Fund revenue of the government has been going down, with the lowest point recorded in 1999-2000, amounting to $230 million.

CPA suspends hike in airport charges

The Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors voted to extend the implementation of the Airline Incentive Program until 2002, in light of the looming aviation crisis brought on by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacked on the US. The extension automatically delays the implementation of the new and higher landing fees, which were originally scheduled to be enforced beginning today. However, the new schedule of rates at the seaport will be implemented by the CPA starting today, although the ports authority will continue discussions on whether to suspend it or not.

Oct. 1, 2002

Food supplies run out

Although no casualties or injuries were reported, Typhoon Higos caused extensive crop damage in the northern islands of Agrigan and Alamagan over the weekend, leaving residents with severely limited food supplies. This has prompted the Emergency Management Office to send deputy director Mark Pangelinan to the islands yesterday morning to conduct a preliminary damage assessment and to bring some emergency foodstuffs. Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisacan has appealed to kindhearted individuals and businesses to donate foodstuffs such as canned goods and rice, as well as clothing, for the affected residents of the two islands.

INS memo: A visa doesn't guarantee entry to the US

Holders of valid U.S. visas face tighter screening upon entering the United States under a new Immigration and Naturalization Service order, which expands the categories of foreigners that have to register when applying for admissions at an American port of entry. Originally, only nationals from Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Libya and Syria were targeted for fingerprinting and special registration. The new order, issued by the INS Office of the Executive Associate Commissioner, now includes all aliens regardless of nationality. Upon making application for admission, or the process by which the alien presents passports containing the nonimmigrant visa to an INS officer at an American port of entry, the applicant will be asked about the intended period of stay and the reason for the visit to the United States.

JOETEN 60th ANNIVERSARY

Joeten's Best Buys of the Week!

October 1 thru 7

Department Store

Coby CD Boombox Player
$51.99

Philips DVD Player
$58.99

Karaoke Party Machine
$79.99

GPX Under Cabinet CD Radio
$59.99

Philips Digital Audio Player
$48.99

Wood CD Tower
$19.99

SUSUPE SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-6446 THRU SAT, 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M. / SUN. 8:00A.M. - 7:00P.M.

DANDAN SUPERMARKET TEL.: 235-6016 MON. THRU SAT, 8:00A.M. - 9:00P.M.

HAFA-ADAI SHOPPING CENTER TEL.: 234-7596 MON. THRU SUN, 8:00A.M. - 11:00P.M.

KAGMAN MARKET TEL.: 256-6441 MON. THRU SAT. 8:00A.M.-10:00P.M.

Supermarket

Quilted Northern Bathroom Tissue
6 Double Rolls
$5.99

MATA Rose Calrose Rice 40lb.
ALL SALES FINAL
NOW $19.99/bg.

Natural/Light Ice Beer
12 oz.
$16.99/cs.

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Formula 409 Spray Cleaner 22oz.
sku# 11681
$3.29

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sku# 2021509
$3.99

Fabuloso Multi-Use Cleaner 28oz.
sku# 1221910
$2.49

Aerosol Duster
8oz. sku# 3034287
$6.99

White Cotton ACE Wiping Cloths
sku# 1024975
$1.49

Basic White Plastic Toilet Seat
sku# 48076
$11.99

JOETEN ACE HARDWARE Come and visit us for more sale! Hurry, while supplies last!

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 235

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

Prosecuting Polanski

Roman Polanski is a cinematic genius with a tragic history. But he is also a fugitive from justice who pleaded guilty to having sex with a 13-year-old girl. Los Angeles County District Attorney Steve Cooley and the U.S. Justice Department acted properly in asking Switzerland to extradite Polanski, regardless of how much time has elapsed and despite the fact that his grown-up victim isn't seeking his imprisonment.

The 76-year-old director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" was arrested over the weekend in Zurich, where he was to have received an award. Many of Polanski's admirers in the U.S. and abroad were outraged.

Their complaints were varied: It's a waste of money to apprehend Polanski for a crime committed in 1977. He is being hounded because he's a celebrity. He has suffered enough, both as a child in the Holocaust and as a husband whose wife, Sharon Tate, was murdered by disciples of Charles Manson. Samantha Geimer, his victim, has said she would have been content to have Polanski sentenced to time served (42 days, in a prison psychiatric facility). Questions also have been raised about the judge, who was ready to renege on a plea agreement that would have spared Polanski additional imprisonment.

Finally, in a caricature of European cosmopolitanism, France's culture minister fumed that the harrying of such a cultural icon revealed the face of "a scary America."

Some of these arguments are more persuasive than others. For example, Polanski may have a due-process claim based on improper behavior by the judge in his case. By contrast, he shouldn't be left alone because of tragedies in his life or his status as a legendary director. Nor is it relevant that his victim seeks no further punishment for him. Prosecutions are brought in the name of the state, not the victim.

Plausible or preposterous, these arguments are eclipsed by a simple fact: Polanski fled the country.

There was understandable outrage in 2001 when President Clinton pardoned Marc Rich, a commodities trader who had refused to return to the United States to face charges of tax evasion and trading with Iran. If a defendant accused of white-collar crimes must answer to accusations in court, so must someone accused of the far graver offense of sexually abusing a child. (Although Polanski pleaded guilty to statutory rape, Geimer has said that the sex wasn't consensual.)

In February, a judge said there had been "substantial" official misconduct in Polanski's original case, so the director may well persuade a court to free him. But first he must return.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

THIS IS ANOTHER THING FOR WHICH YOU AMERICANS OWE US AN APOLOGY...
OBAMA, ALLIES EXPOSE IRANIAN NUCLEAR SITE
YOU SPOILED THE SURPRISE!
KEVIN SIERS ©2009 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

Let's expand on 'America's Best Idea'

By ERICA ROSENBERG
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The 270,000-acre Tejon Ranch, between Los Angeles and Bakersfield in California's Tehachapi Mountains, features extraordinary ecological resources: ancient oak groves, Joshua tree and pinyon pine forests, and 80 imperiled species, including the California condor. Its owners and some environmentalists have cut a deal to put 90 percent of the ranchland into a private conservancy in exchange for allowing intense development on the remaining 10 percent. But here's what hasn't been seriously considered: Protecting this precious area as a national park for the benefit of creatures and people in one of the nation's most densely populated regions.

National parks have been deemed "America's best idea," in writer Wallace Stegner's phrasing, and they are celebrated as that in a Ken Burns documentary series airing this week on PBS. Yet, oddly, America's national park system is largely perceived as a fait accompli, like the great Gothic cathedrals in Europe. But national parks should be as much a part of our future as they are of our past.

Americans invented the national park well over a century ago, with Yellowstone, Yosemite and other outstanding natural areas protected as America's "crown jewels." The 1916 act establishing the National Park Service summed up its mission: "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same ... as will leave them unimpaired for future generations." No other federal land management agency has such populist, preservationist and visionary goals; for example, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management allow recreation on the lands they oversee, but they also allow activities generally prohibited in parks—logging, mining, grazing and drilling.

The nearly 400 park system "units," including 58 national parks as well as national monuments, preserves, battlefields, recreation areas, historic sites and seashores, cover 84 million acres of land, or about 3.5 percent of America's land mass. Every citizen holds title to them. Their success has inspired nearly 100 other countries to designate 1,200 national parks of their own.

Despite their universal popularity, Congress, the Park Service and park advocates working at the national level focus almost exclusively on existing parks. New park designation has stalled. Since 1980, only 35 new park units of any kind have been created, with the overwhelming majority being small historic sites as opposed to expansive natural areas. Between 1929 and 1980, in contrast, about 230 units were added to the system.

Hostility to federal land ownership and spending on the part of conservative Congresses account for some of the stagnation. As significant, environmentalists for the last few decades have directed their energies not to preserving natural areas by adding parks to the system, but to battling federal agencies beholden to extractive industries and to expanding the federal wilderness system.

Wilderness—which, like national parks, only Congress can designate—offers a protective overlay for federal land regardless of the agency managing it (be it the BLM, the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service or the Park Service). It's the most restrictive designation, keeping out most activities and people, except for rugged individuals hiking in the back country. Parks, on the other hand, encourage people to come in, and so they accommodate (to varying degrees) the need for parking lots and visitor centers, and for a wide range of recreational opportunities, from mountain biking and ranger talks to car camping.

Despite these accommodations, parks protect vast swaths of wild lands. They also confer enormous public health, educational and scientific benefits. They afford outstanding and varied outdoor activities for an increasingly urbanized and unfit population. They present and explain natural phenomena and U.S. history, from the geology of the Grand Canyon to military tactics at the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg. Because they represent relatively intact ecosystems, parks enable scientific research—and species—to flourish; Yellowstone, for example, has been the "lab" for the study of wildfire recovery and for the restoration of the wolf and grizzly bear in the Lower 48.

What's more, parks serve as engines for nearby, often rural, economies. National parks provide stable, diverse and safe jobs—with fewer environmental impacts than resource extraction, such as mining or logging. One study found that for every dollar invested in national parks, four are returned to the surrounding communities. A 2003 study of California's 23 national park sites found that they generated $1.18 billion in total spending, 30,000 jobs and $514 million in personal income.

Nothing beats national parks for affordable, family-friendly vacations. Despite the recession—or more likely because of it—visitation at parks is rising. One survey found that 73 percent of Americans will vacation in a national park this year, up from 62 percent in 2008, when 275 million people visited national parks. Campground bookings are up at many parks—in some cases by as much as 30 percent.

All of this means that adding to the system—especially in the form of natural heritage parks—would be nothing but a boon to the nation. And there are plenty of extraordinary places that merit national park designation. Awe-inspiring, park-quality lands abound. My organization, the New National Parks Project, counts about 500 potential new "units" and expanded parks.

Often threatened with development or managed by federal or state agencies with less preservation-oriented missions and less funding, the list of potential major parks includes Washington's Mount St.

See BEST IDEA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Twlight Zone

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

"There is a fifth dimension beyond that which is known to man. It is a dimension as vast as space and timeless as infinity. It is the middle ground between light and shadow, between science and superstition, and it lies between the pit of a man's fears and the summit of his knowledge. This is the dimension of imagination. It is an area we call the Twilight Zone."

The quote above is the prelude to The Twilight Zone television episodes that debuted in 1959 and continued until its fifth season in 1964. We recently purchased the complete definitive collection of The Twilight Zone, and the family has enjoyed watching the first few of the 156 shows we grew up with. Rod Serling, the creator of the television episodes, was an enigmatic man who had made his name as a writer of dramas, but then switched to science fiction. During that period of time there were limits to the current issues a writer could discuss, and Serling felt that the fantasy and science fiction genre would allow him to expose the depths of social consciousness, disguised in parable form. His masterful writings boldly spoke about political commentary that was rarely seen during the height of the Cold War.

Even though the series is in black and white, Serling was certainly ahead of his time and each show carries a deeper message that has endured even 50 years later. While not all of Serling's episodes had connections to a socio-political issue, many of them did. In "He's Alive," Serling tells about a young man (Dennis Hopper) who becomes entangled in a neo-Nazi movement, even though he spent many years under the protective guidance of an older Jewish neighbor. "He" in this instance is Hitler. The end of each episode contained a statement by Serling that offered a brief lesson, and in this show he said: *"Anyplace, everyplace, where there's hate, were there's prejudice, where there's bigotry…he's alive. He's alive so long as these evils exist. Remember that when he comes to your town. Remember it when you hear his voice speaking out through others. Remember it when you hear a name called, a minority attacked, any blind, unreasoning assault on a people or any human being. He's alive because through these things we keep him alive."*

Rodman Edward Serling was born in 1924 and growing up a Jew in Syracuse, New York, he was exposed to prejudice and bigotry. His experiences helped him develop messages that would reflect the sins of the times. Fifty years later we have conquered some diseases and our knowledge has expanded exponentially; yet, our fears and prejudices have continued to plunge individuals and nations into the depths of despair and create a Twilight Zone of our own making.

He believed that people should not be rejected based upon purely superficial differences, and that fear and biases against superficial differences are what drive us apart. Serling told a *Los Angeles Times* reporter in 1967, *"I happen to think the singular evil of our time is prejudice. It is from this evil that all other evils grow and multiply. In almost everything I've written, there is a thread of this: man's seemingly palpable need to dislike someone other than himself."*

Serling once referred to himself as "a present that was delivered unwrapped." The gift he continues to give us after his untimely death in 1975 is his eternal vision that we are all from another dimension, and do not really belong here. We passed through a veil of tears from another place where there was peace, gentleness and kindness; a place where all are respected and valued as individuals.

"The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street" was aired during the Red Communist Scare period. In the episode, a small-town street has neighbors who enjoy warm relationships. However, the close-knit community is torn apart when a boy believes that aliens disguised as humans have invaded their peaceful community. At first the report is dismissed as foolishness, but a series of inexplicable events cause the residents of the quiet town to eventually erupt into rioting. The final scene reveals that space aliens did manipulate the unexplained situations in order to observe our reactions. As a metaphor, it tells us how easily people in a society will fall prey to the machinations of power. Serling's closing statement was so powerful that it will conclude this article.

"The tools of conquest do not necessarily come with bombs and explosives and fallout. There are weapons that are simply thoughts, attitudes, and prejudices to be found only in the minds of men. For the record, prejudices can kill, and suspicion can destroy, and a thoughtless, frightened search for a scapegoat has a fallout all of its own; for the children, and the children yet unborn. And the pity of it is that these things cannot be confined to The Twilight Zone."

America by Rails Part 10: Boston's Red Line to Penn Station

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Arthur Fiedler has a footbridge appropriately named after him connecting one of Boston's thoroughfares to the Esplanade and the Hatch shell where the Boston Pop Symphony Orchestra performs with the fireworks of the Fourth of July. The symphony is known for encouraging individual genius in collaborative harmony and synergy with others.

This historic former colonial city, and also, colonizing city—they did send whalers to the Pacific one time, and Hawaii traces its Caucasian pedigree to its harbor ('cept the BoSox' inability to upend the New York Yankees!)—can easily grow on you. For one, it has too many common names that are familiar to many across the country and on media land. Harvard. MIT. General Massachusetts Hospital. Tufts. Boston U. U Mass. Unless one has been living under cover of the Amazon canopy down Chavez' Venezuela-way lately, these names and categories would be familiar as it came alive in flesh and blood to me this morning when coffee/tea drinking pedestrians and commuters heading for these places alighted on the Red Line from Alewife to South Bay station of Amtrak, and points further south.

The morning paper blares that the city might just elect its fifth-term Mayor this year. It means that stability and keeping the powers that be is in the air in this New England city by the harbor. Never mind that the pulse of the historic tea party of the dissent of the governed had been appropriated by a certain segment of the nation now known as tea baggers. Still, there's a sense in which the "we-can-work-with-what-we've-got" feeling is not a foreign sentiment in this town!

This is significant as the media jumped on Obama's less than aggressive stance at the UN Summit on Climate Change, particularly in the area of carbon emissions that has caused global warming. As usual, the evening news accented what Obama did not say, rather than what he actually said.

This propensity to discard factual knowledge nettles this purveyor of human wisdom. I tried teaching my 6th graders to begin with the objective data—what one sees, hears, smells, tastes, and touch—a first step in the scientific method, before jumping too quickly to how one feels. We hurry only too often to express what irks us without checking first the data on what exactly caused it, nor do we bother to pause to ask the question: What rankles and what resonates? And why?

"Ask not what Obama can do for you; ask what you can do for yourself," might not be an inappropriate rendering of the sentiment behind the old JFK inaugural speech's quote. It is also Obama's acceptance speech theme to Democrats, and his inaugural speech focus as President of the United States.

But we are given to extremes in method, if not in expectation, and since the promise of the Messiah became a fixture in the religious imagination of the Fertile Crescent 2,200 years ago, we have hitched our individual transformation and social reformulation on the boldness and creativity of heroes. Obama is clear that whatever boldness and cutting edge leadership he can provide, it will come to naught without the broad sustaining support that makes any effort he makes comprehensive, realistic, and viable.

Boston to Washington, D.C., is the brain trust corridor of the United States, dominated by right brain rationality that has driven advances in science and philosophy for modern Western civilization. There are the eight Ivy League Schools for higher education (Dartmouth, Cornell, Harvard, Brown, Yale, Columbia, Princeton and Penn) plus NJ's Drew, Wharton at U of PA, West Point at the Hudson, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, DC's American U and GWU, and John Hopkins at MD. These are just a few of the institutions that make this corridor home to the most talented concentration of brains in the nation.

The U.S. until 1970 produced 50 percent of the annual PhDs graduated in the world, now down to 15 percent, but because of the above institutions, the concentration of these graduates, whether Uncle Sam's or from elsewhere, are in the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The genius of those who developed the cure for polio, malaria and tuberculosis, and conducted the Genome project is also the same genius that created out of the Manhattan project the weapon of mass destruction that would later detonate on armadillos in Nevada, used on humans above Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and pollute the waters of Pacific Islands like Bikini and Eniwetok north, and atolls like Fangataufa and Mururoa south of the equator.

The Boston-NYC-DC corridor reflects the preponderance of left brain thinking in the eastern seaboard where the logical and rational tend to overwhelm the right brain thinking of being creative and holistic. It is no coincidence that we often stereotype the eastern seaboard as where people cogitate, while the West Coast is where people play!

Arriving at Penn Station in New York City, I was immediately overwhelmed by the enormity and complexity of the system and structure that enables this metropolis to efficiently transport its population. Locating the logic of the system, its number and color codes, routes and directions, made it navigable like one does when going by a global positioning instrument like the GPS that prompts one with instructions. Yet the "explosive revolt" of the discontinuous and extemporaneous is all over the city.

Times Square have chairs in the middle of the street where people can sip their coffee while they aim to see and be seen. The library at Bryant Park is hangout for a different denizen of city from the likes of those on Madison Ave.; they are more akin to the flighty and imaginative fancies of Broadway.

The pulse beat of America is hardly just the images of its thoughts. It is also the throbs of its heart and the *élan* of its community life. Noisy children and young people visiting Manhattan this day speaks of an America that still knows how to laugh, be silly and boisterous, be naughty and flirtatious, be a guru and a magus.

The prime minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, in an expected display of female sensibility, ordered male government employees to stop wearing suits, jackets, and neckties. Uncle Ben ordered ours to wear them at the beginning of his term, making air-conditioning a office necessity. Suits are a must on Wall St., a plus on Park Ave. Maybe, Tina Sablan should be in-charge of a legislative sartorial committee in the next legislative assembly.

Maybe, also, the Statue of Liberty might even get off its pedestal and encourage prankster of the type of Jerry Lewis rather than the likes of the talented and sleek Bernard Madoff to play the brains of Manhattan and those in the corridor of Boston, NYC, Philly, and DC.

BEST IDEA

From Page 10

Helens, West Virginia's Blackwater Canyon and the Maine woods. The addition of worthy areas to the park system could double the amount of land in our current system and go a long way toward putting parks within a day's travel of most Americans. It also would put more land in the hands of proven stewards.

Far from being obsolete, park designation is an effective strategy for land protection that also benefits huge segments of the public. With a more receptive administration and Congress in place, now is the time to act.

As we approach the national park system's centennial in 2016, Congress should launch an expansion effort by authorizing and funding the study of 100 potential new parks. What better way to celebrate the centennial than with a new generation of national parks? "America's best idea" can get even better.

Rosenberg is director of the New National Parks Project and a former staffer on House and Senate natural resources committees.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning becoming isolated in the afternoon. Slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 To 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy and windy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°

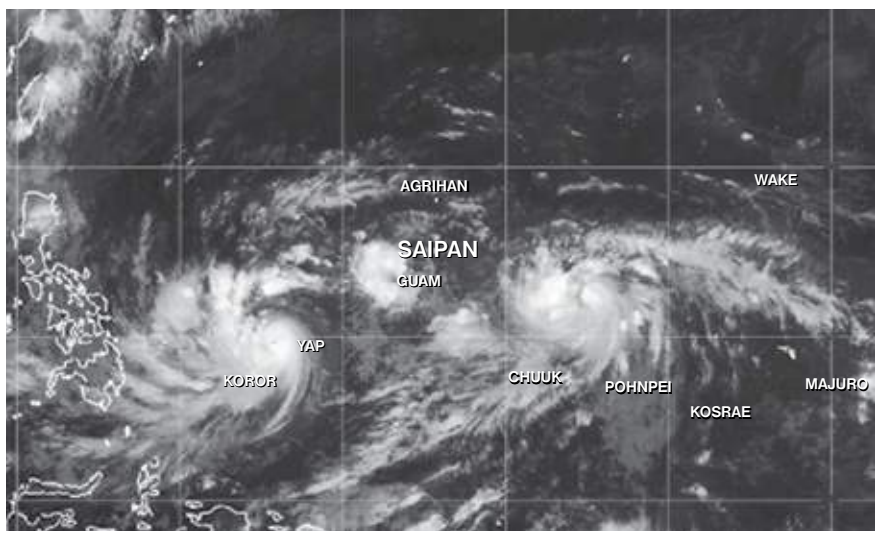
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲88	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼78
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Dreary	▲62	▼58
Beijing	Cloudy	▲77	▼54
Hong Kong	Rain	▲84	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼58
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲64	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼75
New York	Cloudy	▲61	▼48
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼67
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼51
Pusan	Partly Sunny	▲79	▼66
Rome	Rain	▲76	▼61
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲66	▼46
San Francisco	Sunny	▲77	▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼56
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲71	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm 18W is centered near Guam at 13N145E moving west-northwest at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 40 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring over Guam within 75 miles of a line from 15N142E to 13N146E. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. Typhoon Parma (19W) is centered northeast of Koror and west of Yap near 9N136E moving northwest at 13 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are located within 50 miles of the center. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring farther out in an area bounded by a line from 12N130E to 14N134E to 8N139E to 3N130E back to 12N130E. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. Tropical storm Melor (20W) is centered northwest of Pohnpei near 12N155E moving west-northwest at 16 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are located within 200 miles of the center. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ34 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN34 PGTW. Convergent west winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Yap and Chuuk states in an area bounded by a line from 10N146E to 12N150E to 7N154E to 6N150E back to 10N146E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers just east of Majuro within 50 miles of a line from 7N173E to 8N176E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:08 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:51 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:18 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:07 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:02 PM	3:20 AM
Friday	4:38 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	5:14 PM	4:56 AM
Sunday	5:52 PM	5:46 AM
Monday	5:52 PM	5:46 AM

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- SAMU'T SARI
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  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
CO9603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
CO9599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/CO9596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
CO934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Movement on Rota projects expected in coming months

Several Capital Improvement Project-funded undertakings on Rota are seen to move forward in coming months with the hiring of a Rota project manager, according to Sen. Paul A. Manglona yesterday.

Manglona

The Rota senator met with CNMI CIP coordinators Vicky Villagomez and Jim Stump on Friday to discuss stalled CIP projects on Rota. For years Manglona has pushed for the hiring of a project manager to oversee CIP-funded projects in the first senatorial district. He said yesterday that Villagomez had assured him a Rota project manager would be assigned before the end of October.

"This is great news for Rota," said Manglona. "I have written numerous letters over the past several years asking that Rota be assigned a CIP project manager to make sure our projects are seen through to completion. Having a point of contact for our Rota CIP projects will provide much needed accountability. I understand that often projects are stalled because of government bureaucracy, but the [Rota Legislative] Delegation just doesn't have the time or resources to stay on top of every agency responsible for carrying out these projects. This new position should ensure that projects are completed in a timely manner."

During the Friday meeting, it was disclosed that $8.2 million in CIP funding is available for Rota infrastructure. Villagomez said that unused funds obligated prior to 2004 would be pooled and reprogrammed. The Rota Delegation and the Rota Mayor's Office will be consulted on how to best make use of these funds.

"While I am disappointed that past projects have sat idle, I am very pleased to know that the Delegation will be consulted regarding the use of these available, pooled funds," said Manglona.

"Important infrastructure projects such as power generation, collateral equipment at the Health Center and new [school] facilities are urgently needed on Rota. It is vital that we move forward with these projects as soon as possible and I took forward to working with the new project manager to get these going," he added.

The meeting concluded with the decision to have Villagomez and Stump work with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for the immediate reprogramming of approximately $769, 000 of available funding for the procurement of a bucket and parts needed to rehabilitate CUC engines on Rota, including the 2.5 megawatt Mitsui engine. ***(PR)***

Kiribati fines ship $1M for illegal fishing

BETIO, Kiribati—The High Court of Kiribati fined yesterday the owner and master of a foreign fishing vessel a total of $1 million for fishing in Kiribati waters without a license.

The fine came as the High Court handed down its judgment on the prosecution by Kiribati Attorney General of Chung Ching Fu and Sung Hui Ocean Company Ltd, master and owner respectively, of the Vanuatu flagged, longline fishing vessel *Sung Hui*.

On Aug. 24, 2009, the *Sung Hui* was intercepted and boarded by police officers from the Kiribati Pacific Patrol Boat RKS *Teanoai* inside the Kiribati Economic Exclusion Zone. RKS *Teanoai* was just one of a number of patrol boats participating in Operation KuruKuru 2009 and had been alerted to the presence of the *Sung Hui* through the combined regional surveillance effort of the FFA member countries, the United States and France.

A preliminary investigation showed that the vessel had been engaged in illegal fishing activity and was apprehended and taken back to port where it was placed under arrest.

In court, the master and owners of the *Sung Hui* pleaded guilty to one count of unlawful entry, two counts of unlawful fishing within the Kiribati fishery limits and one count of failing to have the vessel's fishing gear stowed. Fines of $993,083 were imposed and the company was also charged for the costs involved in the apprehension of the vessel, paying a further $29,392. The forfeiture of the fishing vessel was also an option considered by the court but it was decided on this occasion to allow the vessel to proceed.

This apprehension and the penalties imposed show the financial benefits of pursuing the masters and owners of vessels which continue to flout international and national fisheries laws. It also demonstrates that the newly formed Regional Fisheries Surveillance center at the FFA in Honiara is successfully supporting and complementing the regional monitoring, control and surveillance effort of the member countries and other surveillance providers. ***(PR)***

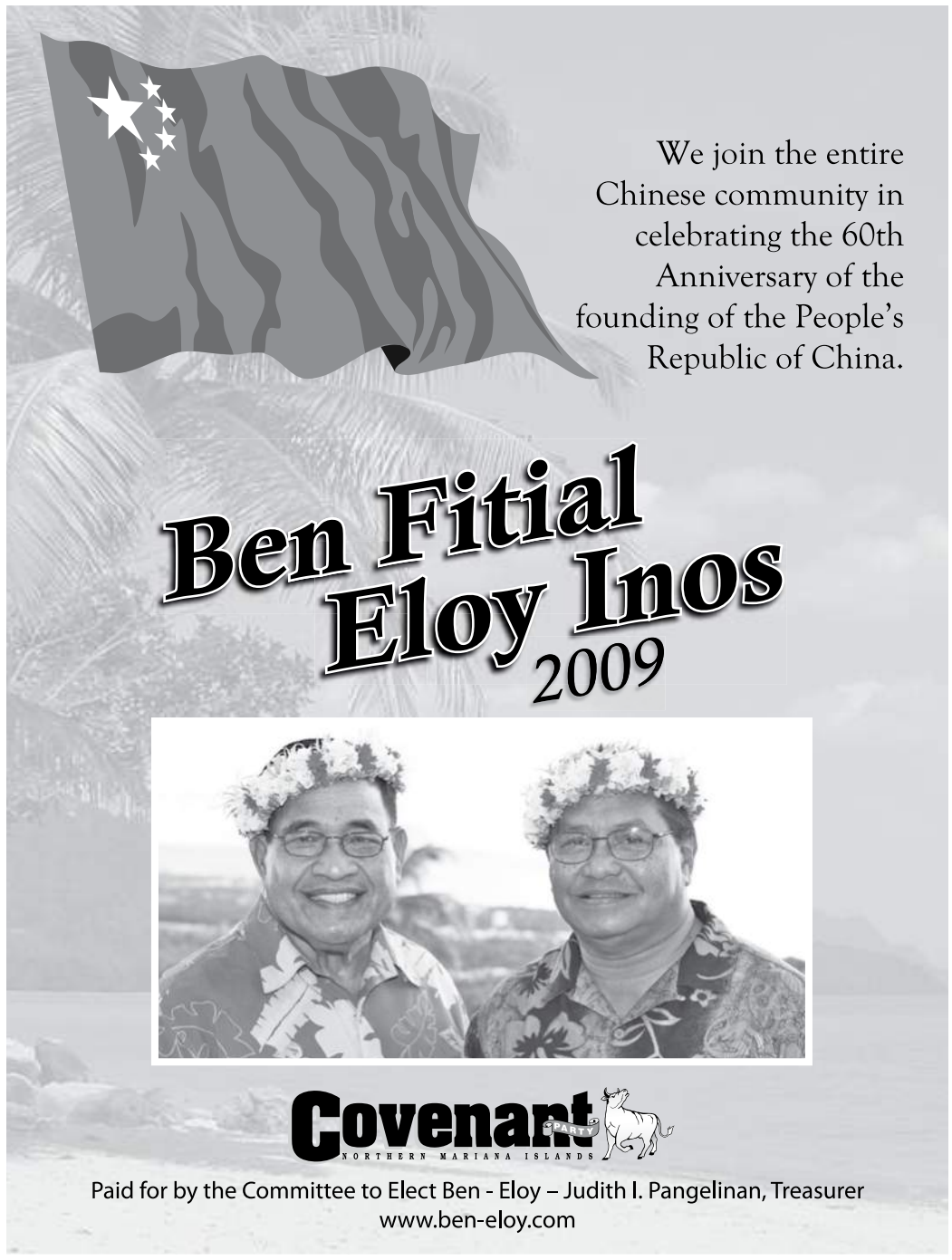
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings going out to Louvicki Francil N. Camacho, who is celebrating her birthday today! May you have a wonderful and enjoyable day on your birthday. May God bless you with many more birthdays to come! Greetings coming from your Mom, Dad, sisters, brother, and of course from the rest of your familia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday to Evan Jay R. Borja! Wishing you all the best in the years to come. May your days be filled with sunshine and beautiful colors! And may your nights be filled with comforting dreams and wishes to come! Greetings come from your family.


We join the entire Chinese community in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.
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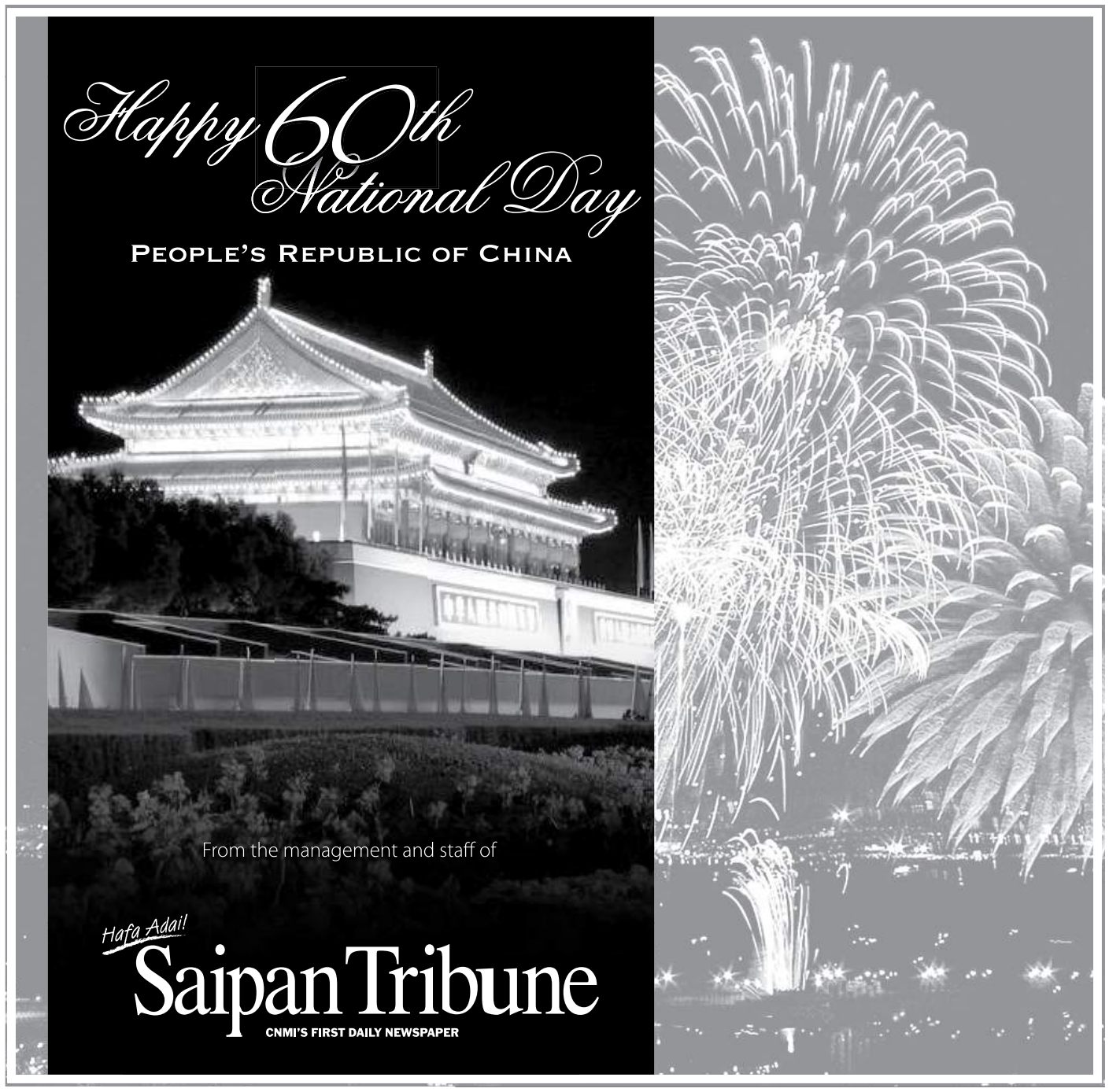


60th National Day of China

Grand ceremony to celebrate China's National Day

BEIJING (Xinhua)—A grand ceremony is scheduled to start at 10am today in Beijing to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

The celebrations will center on the Tian'anmen Square in the heart of Beijing, and Chang'an Avenue, the capital's main west-east thoroughfare, said Wang Yue, executive commander of the headquarters for civilians' parade affairs of the 60th anniversary celebration in the Chinese capital.

According to Wang, immediately following a massive military parade, there will be a civilians' parade comprising 36 formations and six performing groups involving about 100,000 citizens and 60 floats. It is complemented by 80,000 primary and middle school students in the Tian'anmen Square forming background patterns.

More than 4,000 performers, including a 2,400 strong chorus, will present a concert in the Tian'anmen Square, said Wang.

AP

A man and a child being carried on his shoulders visit the Tiananmen Square with a Chinese national flag in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009. Chinese authorities will shut down access to Tiananmen Square Sept. 30 to prepare for the Oct. 1 National Day parade.

The civilians' parade begins with a formation of honor guards holding high the National Flag of the New China.

The civilians' parade will have three themes: ideology, achievements and future prospects, Wang said.

"Ideology" will be portrayed by formations holding high portraits of Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao, and placards featuring slogans characteristic of their thinking.

Nineteen floats will display China's achievements in different sectors, while another 34 will represent China's 31 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities, as well as Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

Three formations of teenagers will express the concept of wishing China a beautiful future. More than 5,000 children have been organized to fly and release colorful balloons and several tens of thousands of doves will also be released in the Tian'anmen Square Area, Wang said.

Snapshots of past National Day parades live in China memories

BEIJING (Xinhua)—Slogans, costumes and people's demeanors in the two dozen of National Day parades over the past six decades reflect China's major changes, said veteran parade planner Tian Geng.

The former chief editor of the Beijing Publishing House acted as chief planner of parade formation and slogans in several National Day parades.

"The thought in the planning is always to reflect the most important incidents and achievements of the time in the parade, and let the slogan demonstrate the themes of the times and the trend of the nation's development," said the 82-year-old man, who is looking forward to the upcoming National Day parade marking the60th anniversary of the founding of New China on Oct. 1.

A giant board reading the Constitution of the People's Republic of China was carried through Tian'anmen Square at the 5th anniversary, marking the year when the Constitution was passed, he said.

The National Day parade in 1958 saw the slogan of "Striving for Steel Output of 10.7 million tonnes," as the government intended to increase the steel production, which was recognized as a symbol of industrial progress, said Tian.

He remembered the first festooned vehicle which appeared at the35th National Day anniversary celebration in 1984. The vehicle made in Shenzhen, a pioneering economic zone of China's opening-up reform, carried an interesting slogan—"Time is Money, Efficiency is Life."

Such a concept was a novelty at that time, when the country had only just begun to pilot the land contract reform, giving farmers the land management rights. At the National Day celebration that year, five trucks carrying the slogans "Good for the Household Contract Responsibility System" passed through the Tian'anmen Square.

Tian said the most romantic moment in his memory was at the 50th anniversary celebration in 1999, when 75 pairs of newly-wed wearing wedding clothes and holding lily bouquets walked across the square.

"I feel more and more humanism in the National Day celebrations through the years. The nation is giving more and more respect to individuals," he said.

Zhang Fuxiang, a resident in Beijing, recalled he dressed in a worn-out padded jacket to join the first National Day parade on Oct. 1, 1949 when New China was founded.

"There was no rehearsal, no organized motion and no uniform. But everybody was passionate and energetic," said the old man in his 80s.

Wu Yang, an official in charge of public entertainment activities in the Beijing Cultural Bureau, remembered at the National Day parade in 1956, it was raining.

"The costume made of thin cotton cloth became transparent after it was soaked in rain, and the colorful dyeing was washed off," she said.

Tiananmen area spruced up for 60th National Day gala

BEIJING(Xinhua)—Tian'anmen Square and its surrounding area, the center of Beijing, has been spruced up for a host of important celebrations to mark New China's 60 birthday on Oct.1.

Stuff members lay red carpet which will be used at the National Day celebrations in front of the Tian'anmen Rostrum, Beijing, Sept. 29, 2009. (Xinhua/Li Ziheng)

Visitors, eagerly swarming to the square to absorb the festive atmosphere before Thursday, are having to spend more time, and stand in long queues in drizzle Tuesday waiting to pass security checks before they make their way on to the square.

Tian'anmen Rostrum to the north of the square has been decorated with eight huge red lanterns, a brand new portrait of Mao Zedong, and two banners reading "Long Live the People's Republic of China" and "Long Live the Unity of All People of the World".

Three temporary reviewing stands capable of accommodating 10,000 people have been erected in front of both wings of the rostrum and on the northern side of the Great Hall of the People. Red carpets have been rolled out to complement the stands.

On the square itself, the Monument to the People's Heroes has been thoroughly cleaned, while to the north of the monument stands upright a portrait of Dr. Sun Yat-sen, a forerunner of the Chinese democratic revolution.

Jia Yingting, deputy chief of Tian'anmen Area Administrative Committee, said Tuesday four giant electronic screens, erected around the square for the first time this year to air slogans and video programs, added a sense of dynamism to the square.

The most eye-catching objects on the square are 56 huge pillars, planted along its eastern and western sides. They symbolize the different ethnic groups inhabiting China.

In vibrant red and gold, each pillar features a young dancing couple draped in festive costume, plus a representative image and a corresponding title for each ethnic group.

Web-savvy & cynical: China's youth since Tiananmen

By ALEXA OLESEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KAIFENG, China (AP)—Twenty years ago, on the night of June 3, rumors were flying about an impending military crackdown against demonstrators in Beijing. That's when Feng Shijie's wife went into labor in his hometown, Kaifeng.

The baby born the next morning, June 4, is now an undergraduate at Kaifeng University. After class, he plays games online or shoot hoops at a campus basketball court. He can list the latest Hollywood releases and NBA stats. But he knows next to nothing about the pro-democracy movement that ended in a bloody crackdown the day he was born.

"My parents told me some incident happened on Tiananmen Square on my birthday but I don't know the details," says Feng Xiaoguang, an upbeat graphic design student in faux Nike shoes and an imitation Prada shirt.

Xiaoguang is one of China's 200 million so-called 'post-1980' kids—a generation of mostly single children, thanks to the one-child policy, born on the cusp of an unparalleled economic boom. Aged between 20 and 30, they are Web-savvy, worldly, fashion-conscious—and largely apolitical.

Asked what kind of reform the Tiananmen students were after, Xiaoguang says he doesn't know.

"Did it have something to do with the conflicts between capitalism and socialism?" he asks.

It would be hard for him to know more. The subject is taboo. The demonstrations are classified as a counter-revolutionary riot and rarely mentioned in public. Textbooks touch on them fleetingly, if at all.

Few young people are aware that millions of students, workers and average people gathered peacefully in Beijing and other cities over seven weeks in early 1989 to demand democratic reform and an end to corruption. They are not told how communist authorities finally silenced the dissent with deadly force, killing hundreds.

Chinese leaders today argue that juggernaut growth and stability since the early 1990's prove that quelling the uprising was the right choice. Indeed, young Chinese people are materially better off now than they have perhaps ever been, with annual income per capital soaring to about 19,000 yuan ($2,760) in 2007, up from just 380 yuan ($55) in 1978.

But the tradeoff has been that young Chinese have no real role in shaping their country's future—and may not be very interested in having one.

An official survey released this month found 75 percent of college students hoped to join the Communist Party, but 56 percent of those said they would do so to "boost their chances of finding a good job." The rest wanted to join for personal honor—29 percent—while 15 percent were motivated by faith in communism, said the Internet survey of 12,018 students by the People's Tribune.

An accompanying commentary said students today are clearly "cold" about politics and cited concern from education experts about "extreme egotism" among the youth.

At Peking University, a hub for the 1989 protests, only one political group cracked the top 15 extracurricular clubs—the elite Marxism Youth Study Group, reputed to be good for career networking.

The generation that demonstrated on Tiananmen Square grew up surrounded by political discussion, scripted as it often was, and lived through mass movements that demanded full public participation, notably the tumultuous Cultural Revolution that ended in 1976.

But the 1989 crackdown put an end to most public debate on the topic of whither China. Few now risk serious political discussion even behind closed doors, with good reason.

Consider The New Youth Study Group, a short-lived club of young Beijing professionals that met privately to talk about political reform and posted essays online, including one titled "China's democracy is fake." Four of the members were convicted of subversion and intent to overthrow the Communist Party in May 2003 and sentenced to between 8 and 10 years in prison.

With this fear of political dissent, it's hard to tell whether young people like underground musician Li Yan are being shallow or shrewd when they shrug off Tiananmen. Li Yan, also known as Lucifer, was born in May 1989 and is a performing arts student in Beijing with a cultivated rebel image.

"Young kids like us are maybe just more into popular entertainment like Korean soap operas. ... Very few people really care about that other stuff," says Lucifer, before mounting the stage at a Beijing club to belt out "Rock 'N Roll for Money and Sex."

Tiananmen veterans read the reaction as apathy and lament it.

"All those magnificent ideals have been replaced by the practical pursuit of self-centered comforts," says Bao Tong, former secretary to Zhao Ziyang, the Communist Party leader deposed for sympathizing with the 1989 protesters. "The leaders today don't want young people to think."

According to Bao, 76, China's youth are in the arms of the government being fed candy. They could continue this way if the economy remains strong and the government distributes wealth more equitably, he says, but he doesn't think either is likely.

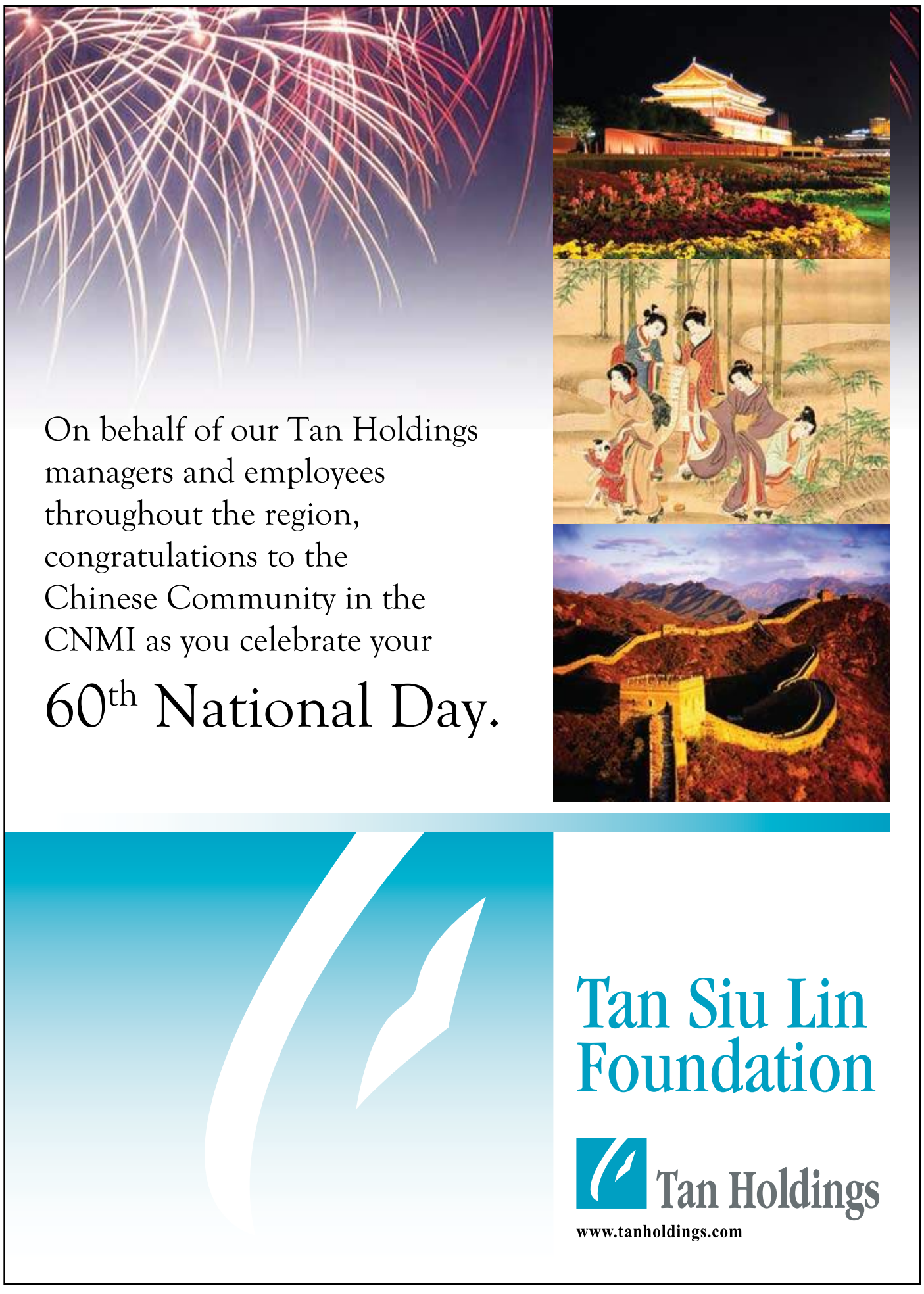
Others say the reckless optimism of the Tiananmen era is the reason young people today lack ideals. The fearless naivete of 1989 serves as a cautionary tale, not inspiration.

Sun Yi's father was a Tiananmen-era dissident. In a self-published magazine in 1990, he openly criticized the crackdown and was soon imprisoned for speaking out. She admires her father but wonders if his sacrifices, a broken marriage and seven years in jail, were worth it.

"It was a really heroic undertaking, but still I feel he gave up so much, too much," says Sun, a 22-year-old engineering student in Sydney, Australia. "His voice was heard by some of the people but not many, not many compared to the population in China. Is that worth it?"

AP

A girl holds a Chinese flag as she visits Tiananmen gate after a flag lowering ceremony in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009.



Business

Toyota to recall 3.8M vehicles over floor mats

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. said Tuesday it will recall 3.8 million vehicles in the United States, the company's largest-ever U.S. recall, to address problems with a removable floor mat that could cause accelerators to get stuck and lead to a crash. The recall will involve popular models such as the Toyota Camry, the top-selling passenger car in America, and the Toyota Prius, the best-selling gas-electric hybrid.

Toyota said it was still working with officials with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to find a remedy to fix the problem and said owners could be notified about the recall as early as next week. Toyota spokesman Irv Miller said until the company finds a fix, owners should take out the removable floor mat on the driver's side and not replace it.

"A stuck open accelerator pedal may result in very high vehicle speeds and make it difficult to stop a vehicle, which could cause a crash, serious injury or death," Miller said.

NHTSA said it had received reports of 102 incidents in which the accelerator may have become stuck on the Toyota vehicles involved. It was unclear how many led to crashes but the inquiry was prompted by a highspeed crash in August in California of a Lexus barreling out of control. As the vehicle hit speeds exceeding 120 mph, family members made a frantic 911 call and said the accelerator was stuck and they couldn't stop the vehicle.

"This is an urgent matter," Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement. "For everyone's sake, we strongly urge owners of these vehicles to remove mats or other obstacles that could lead to unintended acceleration."

The recall will affect 2007-2010 model year Toyota Camry, 2005-2010 Toyota Avalon, 2004-2009 Toyota Prius, 2005-2010 Tacoma, 2007-2010 Toyota Tundra, 2007-2010 Lexus ES350 and 2006-2010 Lexus IS250 and IS350.

AP

In this Aug. 16, 2009 file photo, the company logo shines off the nose of an unsold 2010 Camry sedan at a Toyota dealership in Centennial, Colo.

Toyota's previously largest U.S. recall was about 900,000 vehicles in 2005 to fix a steering issue. The company declined to say how many complaints it had received about the accelerator issue.

The Japanese automaker warned owners that if they think their vehicle is accelerating out of control, they should check to see whether their floor mat is under the pedal. If a driver can't remove the floor mat, Toyota advises drivers to step on the brake pedal with both feet until the vehicle slows and then try to put it into neutral and switch the ignition to accessory power.

For vehicles with engine start/stop buttons, Toyota said the engine can be shut off by holding the button down for three seconds.

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-005

This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC

Ground Maintenance Services for NMHC's Properties in Tinian

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide ground maintenance services for its properties in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan and at its Field Office in San Jose Village, Tinian, beginning Monday, September 21, 2009, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Field Office located in the Juan King Building in San Jose Village on Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 10:30 a.m.. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivision and other properties owned by NMHC to be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visits are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements, and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-ITB09-005**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time October 19, 2009**. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, October 19, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October 19, 2009**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **October 28, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m., local time, October 29, 2009**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on October 19, 2009.**

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

The Commonwealth Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined by the government to be in its best interest. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

For information, call the NMHC Office in Tinian at 433-9213 or the Central Office in Garapan Saipan, during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/
MARCIE M. TOMOKANE
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer

Consumer confidence unexpectedly falls in Sept.

NEW YORK (AP)—Concerns that consumers won't help drive a speedy and strong economic recovery only escalated Tuesday after an influential barometer of confidence fell unexpectedly in September.

The Conference Board's Consumer Confidence survey showed worries about job security seem to be offsetting any enthusiasm about rising home values and stocks.

"Last year, consumers were shellshocked as they worried about what might happen to the economy," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "Today, shoppers ... don't have the means to step up spending."

The Conference Board, a private research group, said its confidence index dipped to 53.1 in September, down from a revised 54.5 in August. Economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters had expected a reading of 57.

The report followed rosier data on housing released Tuesday that showed home prices rose for the third month in a row in July. Investors fixated on the confidence report, giving back early gains. The Dow Jones industrials fell 47.16, or 0.5 percent, to 9,742.20.

Among the worrisome signs in the Conference Board's release were that shoppers' spending intentions declined for big-ticket purchases: cars, homes and major appliances. The report confirmed that "the consumer sector will not be much of a driver of the recovery beyond the third quarter, when auto sales spiked in response to the temporary Cash for Clunkers program," according to IHS Global Insight Chief U.S. Financial Economist Brian Bethune.

The index, which hit a historic low of 25.3 in February, had enjoyed a three-month climb from March through May fueled by signs that the economy might be stabilizing. The road has been bumpier since June as rising unemployment has caught up with shoppers. Many economists expect confidence to be stuck at the current levels during the critical holiday shopping season.

A reading above 90 means the economy is on solid footing. Above 100 signals strong growth.

While the confidence index has doubled from the February low, it's still about half of the historic average and below the 61.4 level right before the collapse of Lehman Brothers last fall.

Economists watch consumer sentiment because spending on goods and services for consumers accounts for about 70 percent of U.S. economic activity by federal measures. While the reading doesn't always predict short-term spending, it does serve as a barometer of spending levels over time, specifically for big-ticket items.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Fed moves ahead on credit card protection plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve proposed rules Tuesday to better protect Americans from sudden hikes in interest rates on credit cards. The proposal would generally bar rate increases during the first year after an account is opened. It also would ban—with a few exceptions- increasing the rate on existing credit card balances. For instance, if a customer is behind more than 60 days on a payment, the rate on the existing balance can be boosted. "This proposal is another step forward in the Federal Reserve's efforts to ensure that consumers who rely on credit cards are treated fairly," said Fed member Elizabeth Duke, the point person on the effort.

SEC watchdog pushes changes after Madoff failure

WASHINGTON (AP)—The watchdog of the Securities and Exchange Commission has recommended a new system for handling the thousands of tips and complaints the agency receives and other changes to prevent another breakdown like the one that allowed Bernard Madoff's massive fraud to go undetected for 16 years. The proposals from SEC Inspector General David Kotz for the agency's enforcement and inspections operations also include making it easier for junior-level enforcement attorneys to bring their concerns to top managers. In a report late last month, Kotz detailed how the SEC bungled five investigations of Madoff's business between June 1992 and last December, when the financier confessed the scheme to his sons. Top SEC officials have pledged to fix the problems and say they already have made major changes.

Oil above $67 in Asia despite high inventories

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above $67 a barrel Wednesday in Asia despite an increase in U.S. crude inventories for a third week, which suggests consumer demand remains weak. Benchmark crude for November deliver was up 42 cents at $67.13 by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 13 cents to settle at $66.71 on Tuesday. U.S. oil inventories rose last week, the American Petroleum Institute said late Tuesday. Crude stocks increased 2.8 million barrels while analysts had expected a jump of 2.1 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Nation

Senate panel rejects gov't health insurance option

WASHINGTON (AP)—In a long-anticipated showdown, liberal Democrats twice failed on Tuesday to inject a government-run insurance option into sweeping health care legislation taking shape in the Senate, despite bipartisan agreement that private insurers must change their ways.

The two votes marked a victory for Montana Democrat Max Baucus, the Senate Finance Committee chairman, who is hoping to push his middle-of-the-road measure through the panel by week's end. It also kept alive the possibility that at least one Republican may yet swing behind the overhaul, a key goal of both Baucus and the White House.

The developments occurred as Democrats in the House sought savings to reduce their companion legislation to roughly $900 billion over a decade, the price tag President Barack Obama has suggested.

One option under consideration would reduce the number of individuals and families eligible for federal health coverage subsidies to those earning less than 400 percent of poverty, or about $43,000 for a single person and $88,000 for a family of four, officials said, commenting only on condition of anonymity. The subsidies are designed to make insurance more affordable, and account for a significant percentage of spending in the bill.

Without disclosing any of the details of a marathon closed-door leadership meeting, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., told reporters, "It's hard work, but we're determined to get it (the bill's cost) down."

If anything, the health care debate was growing more intense. According to one independent organization, television advertising around the issue has been running at a level of more than $1.1 million a day for the past week and now stands over $100 million since the beginning of the year.

Inside the Senate Finance Committee, Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said his proposal to allow the government to sell insurance in competition with private industry was far from the federal takeover that critics portray. "It's not. It's optional," he said, adding it was designed to offer competition and a lower-priced, reliable choice for consumers shopping for coverage.

"Washington is not the answer," countered Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah.

NYC terror suspect pleads not guilty, kept in jail

NEW YORK (AP)—As a suspected al-Qaida operative pleaded not guilty Tuesday to plotting a bomb attack in New York, the city's police commissioner pronounced the threat neutralized and said there is nothing to fear from the defendant's three alleged accomplices.

The terror scheme "has been broken up," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly. "I see no danger emanating ... from the people involved in this investigation."

He would not elaborate, and police and federal investigators have repeatedly refused to discuss the whereabouts of the three people who are alleged to have helped Afghan immigrant Najibullah Zazi buy beauty supplies for use in brewing up explosives.

But former federal prosecutor Harry Sandick said the investigators' silence might mean the accomplices have left the country or are already secretly cooperating.

"One would think they're in custody or likely to be in custody soon," Sandick said.

Police also said there are no extra security measures in place in subways or elsewhere in New York because of the alleged plot.

Zazi, 24, is the only suspect publicly identified so far in what Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Knox called a conspiracy that was "international in scope." Prosecutors said Zazi received al-Qaida explosives training in Pakistan last year and may have intended to carry out his attack on the anniversary of 9/11.

After his return to the U.S., authorities said, three people traveled from New York City to suburban Denver over the summer and used stolen credit cards to help Zazi buy products containing hydrogen peroxide and acetone—common ingredients for homemade bombs. Authorities said the three returned to New York at some point.

Zazi, heavily bearded and wearing a blue jail smock, never spoke and showed no emotion as his lawyer entered a not guilty plea to conspiracy in a Brooklyn courtroom guarded by a team of deputy marshals. He was ordered held without bail.

State to mom: Stop baby-sitting neighbors' kids

IRVING TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Each day before the school bus comes to pick up the neighborhood's children, Lisa Snyder did a favor for three of her fellow moms, welcoming their children into her home for about an hour before they left for school.

Regulators who oversee child care, however, don't see it as charity. Days after the start of the new school year, Snyder received a letter from the Michigan Department of Human Services warning her that if she continued, she'd be violating a law aimed at the operators of unlicensed day care centers.

"I was freaked out. I was blown away," she said. "I got on the phone immediately, called my husband, then I called all the girls"—that is, the mothers whose kids she watches—"every one of them."

Snyder's predicament has led to a debate in Michigan about whether a law that says no one may care for unrelated children in their home for more than four weeks each calendar year unless they are licensed day-care providers needs to be changed. It also has irked parents who say they depend on such friendly offers to help them balance work and family.

On Tuesday, agency Director Ismael Ahmed said good neighbors should be allowed to help each other ensure their children are safe. Gov. Jennifer Granholm instructed Ahmed to work with the state Legislature to change the law, he said.

"Being a good neighbor means helping your neighbors who are in need," Ahmed said in a written statement. "This could be as simple as providing a cup of sugar, monitoring their house while they're on vacation or making sure their children are safe while they wait for the school bus."

Snyder learned that the agency was responding to a neighbor's complaint.

Granholm spokeswoman Liz Boyd said the agency was following standard procedure in its response. "But we feel this (law) really gets in the way of common sense," Boyd said.

"We want to protect kids, but the law needs to be reasonable," she said. "When the governor learned of this, she acted quickly and called the director personally to ask him to intervene."

ACROSS THE NATION

Hawaii spared effects of deadly tsunami

HONOLULU (AP)—The earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Samoa and American Samoa prompted officials in Hawaii to take precautions against possible devastating flooding as some residents prayed that loved ones in their homeland survived. At the American Samoa government office in Honolulu, the telephones were ringing constantly as Samoans in Hawaii and on the mainland inquired about the aftereffects of the tsunami. Some in Hawaii frantically texted and e-mailed family members back home. Hawaii and much of the rest of the Pacific were placed under tsunami advisories for a few hours Tuesday following the earthquake. The warnings and watches were canceled by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Honolulu after the threat of a tsunami subsided.

Cops: Skater faces charges in right-of-way dispute

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut in-line skater faces assault and other charges after a confrontation over whether a 4-year-old on a tricycle had the right to be on a bike path. Stamford police charged 43-year-old Chris Karamon with third-degree assault, risk of injury to a minor and other crimes. Police said Karamon shouted and cursed at the boy's parents on the path in Cove Island Park. Police said he later skated into the boy's father, who was shielding his children, and threw a helmet and water bottle at him. Police Lt. Sean Cooney said the path is for use by everyone, not just skaters. Karamon declined to comment Tuesday morning.

Boston-area college bans sex with roommate around

BOSTON (AP)—Sex in a Tufts University dorm is fine. Sex in a Tufts dorm with your roommate present? That's a no-no. This semester, the school has a new policy banning sexual activity while a roommate is in the same room. Kim Thurler, a Tufts University spokeswoman, said the school issued the new rule after a dozen or so complaints in the past three years. "It's really about respect and consideration, and it's a question of how roommates utilized their space," Thurler said. The new policy concerning overnight guests reads: "You may not engage in sexual activity while your roommate is present in the room." It mentions no consequences if the rule is broken, however.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-R-007

CONSTRUCTION OF THE TINIAN AMPHITHEATER PARKING LOT INFILTRATION SYSTEM

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System**, in San Jose, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package consisting of Technical Specifications, Plans and Bid Documents will be available on or after September 28, 2009, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference" as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are also advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid the current minimum wage or the wage determination for the Commonwealth as required by the CNMI law / Federal law, whichever is higher.

A **pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday, October 7, 2009,** at the on-going construction site of the Tinian Amphitheater in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB09-R-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Wednesday, October 14, 2009.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, October 14, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 14, 2009 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than October 23, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, October 26, 2009. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m., local time, October 14, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Tinian Amphitheater Parking Lot Infiltration System". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the NMIAC §70.30.3.301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is ninety (90) calendar days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for the delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant, American Recovery and Reinvestment (CDBG-R) funding provided to the Commonwealth. This project which goal is to provide economic stimulus as well as jobs creation is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

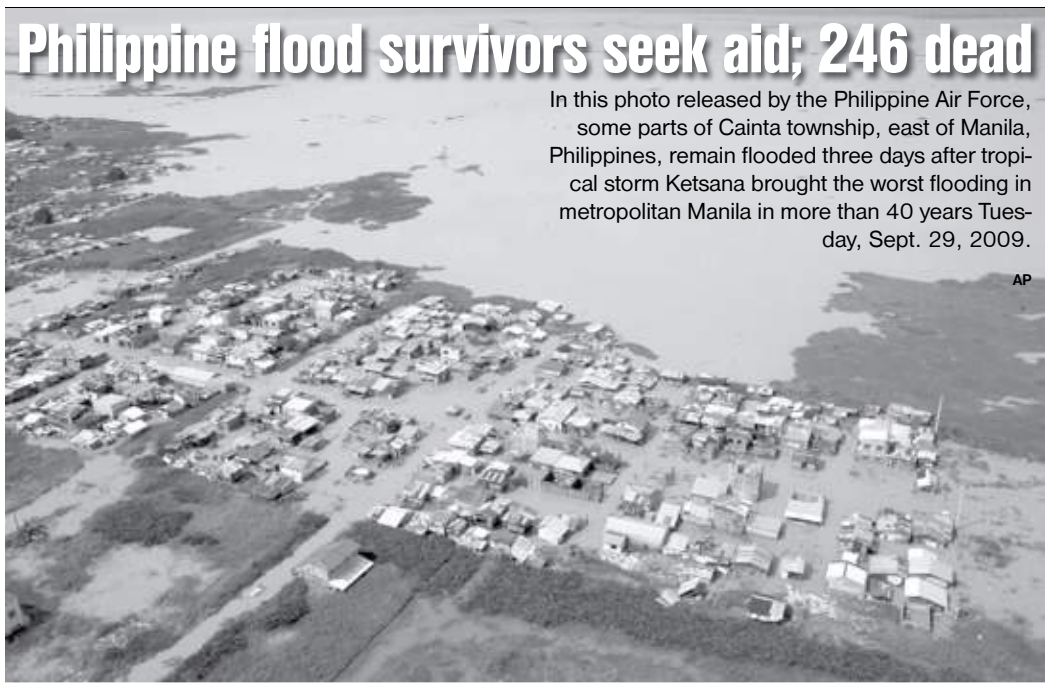
/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer

Asia

Philippine flood survivors seek aid; 246 dead



In this photo released by the Philippine Air Force, some parts of Cainta township, east of Manila, Philippines, remain flooded three days after tropical storm Ketsana brought the worst flooding in metropolitan Manila in more than 40 years Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009.

AP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Flood victims trudged through ankle-deep sludge to crowded relief centers in the Philippines, as the death toll rose to 246 from waters that submerged the homes of more than 2 million people.

Another tropical storm was headed toward the southern Philippines and could hit on Wednesday afternoon, government forecaster Malou Rivera said. Officials fear more heavy rain could flood already hard-hit areas, and complicate cleanup efforts.

Tropical Storm Ketsana brought the worst flooding to the Southeast Asian country in four decades, chasing some victims to their rooftops to escape the rising water and sweeping others down raging rivers.

The storm struck Saturday in Manila, one of the world's largest cities with about 12 million people, and dumped more than a month's worth of rain in just 12 hours. Flooding was worst around the Pasig River that cuts through the capital, including wealthy suburbs and shanty towns.

At relief centers Wednesday, mostly women and their children clutching bags of belongings lined up at relief centers for bottled water, boiled eggs and packets of instant noodles for a fourth day. Their husbands waded through sludge to return to their homes to clean up the mud—sometimes two feet (half a meter) deep—that carpeted their houses and shops.

Ketsana wreaks havoc in rest of Southeast Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—One of the most destructive storms in years extended its deadly path across Southeast Asia, blowing down wooden villages in Cambodia and crushing Vietnamese houses under mudslides after submerging much of the Philippines capital.

The death toll Wednesday was at 298 and rising.

"We're used to storms that sweep away one or two houses. But I've never seen a storm this strong," said Nam Tum, governor of Cambodia's Kampong Thom province.

The immediate threat was easing as Typhoon Ketsana was downgraded to a tropical depression as it crossed Wednesday into a fourth nation, Laos. But its powerful winds and pummeling rain left a snaking trail of destruction.

Landslides triggered by the storm slammed into houses in central Vietnam on Tuesday, burying at least seven people including five members of the same family, the government said. They were among 41 people killed in the country, some by falling trees, with 10 missing.

The storm destroyed or damaged nearly 170,000 homes and flattened crops across six central Vietnamese provinces, officials said. More than 350,000 people were evacuated from the typhoon's path, posing a logistical headache to shelter and feed them.

Taliban roadway attacks spread fear in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—Taliban militants are sowing fear along Afghanistan's highways with stepped-up checkpoints, hijackings and bombs—including one Tuesday that killed at least 30 bus passengers in the south. Afghan authorities say the attacks, often carried out by only a handful of militants, are part of a psychological campaign to convince civilians that Taliban control is spreading.

"It is quite possible for a group of three to five insurgents to come out on the highway and attack a convoy," said the Interior Ministry spokesman, Zemarai Bashary. "Maybe thousands of people will travel that day and they are watching that convoy burning."

Militants are planting more roadside bombs than ever, killing far more Afghan civilians than Afghan or coalition soldiers. The bombings—and ambushes with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades—are increasingly taking place on main roads against trucks and buses. Some attacks are in areas where Taliban have long held sway, such as Kandahar, the group's spiritual birthplace, but others are in regions where militant activity has risen only recently, such as in the north.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan issues tsunami warning along coast

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's Meteorological Agency has issued a tsunami warning all along its eastern coast after a strong earthquake hit Samoa in the Pacific Ocean. The agency warned Wednesday morning of a possible tsunami up to about 1.6 feet (50 centimeters) tall. The agency warned the tsunami could hit all along Japan's eastern coast, on an area ranging from Japan's northern island of Hokkaido to the southern tip of Kyushu island, with the Okinawa islands to the far south also included. The warning came after a powerful earthquake caused large tsunamis in Samoa and American Samoa, flattening villages and killing at least 34 people.

29 die after boats capsize during Indian festival

PATNA, India (AP)—Two boats capsized in flooded rivers in eastern India's Bihar state during a major Hindu festival, killing at least 29 people and leaving around 22 missing, police said Tuesday. At least 20 people swam to shore from one boat that was overcrowded with people returning to their homes after participating in festivities during the Dussehra festival, said Neelmani, a top state police official, who uses only one name.

Rescuers found the bodies of 21 people, including 16 children, Neelmani said, adding that those still missing might be male family members who swam to safety but had not been counted by authorities.

World

Iran built nuclear siteshielded from air attack

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—In an unusually frank disclosure, Iran's nuclear chief said Tuesday the country's new uranium enrichment site was built for maximum protection from aerial attack: carved into a mountain and near a military compound of the powerful Revolutionary Guard.

Iran's revelation that it covertly built a second uranium enrichment plant has raised international concerns that other secret nuclear sites might exist as well.

Iranian nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi's statement came with a hard-line message ahead of crucial talks this week with the U.S. and other world powers—Iran will not give up its ability to produce nuclear fuel.

The details emerging about the secret site near the holy city of Qom have only heightened suspicions Iran is trying to build a nuclear bomb, despite repeated denials.

Salehi, who is vice president and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, spoke at a news conference that touched on sensitive military and nuclear issues rarely discussed publicly in Iran. The effort at openness was seen as an attempt to counter international dismay over the nuclear site and a new round of missile tests this week.

"This site is at the base of a mountain and was selected on purpose in a place that would be protected against aerial attack. That's why the site was chosen adjacent to a military site," Salehi said.

"It was intended to safeguard our nuclear facilities and reduce the cost of an active defense system. If we had chosen another site, we would have had to set up another aerial defense system."

He said Iran is willing to have a general discussion about nuclear technology when it meets Thursday in Geneva with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany. But he insisted Iran will not give up its "right" to uranium enrichment, which produces fuel that can be used for both nuclear energy or nuclear weapons.

"We will never bargain over our sovereign right," said Salehi, repeating a long-held Iranian position.

The U.S. and its allies have demanded Iran come clean on all its nuclear activities or face harsher international sanctions. President Barack Obama's administration is planning to push for new sanctions targeting Iran's energy, financial and telecommunications sectors if it does not comply with international demands, according to U.S. officials.

Cracks deepen among supporters of Honduran coup

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Cracks are deepening among supporters of Honduras' coup-imposed government, with business leaders softening their opposition to reinstating ousted President Manuel Zelaya and lawmakers threatening to revoke an emergency decree limiting civil liberties.

Zelaya said Tuesday night that he was encouraged by a plan proposed by an influential business chamber for putting him back in office and ending the crisis. The plan includes bringing foreign troops to Honduras to ensure that if Zelaya was restored to the presidency, he would respect an international mediator's proposal that his powers be strictly limited.

Zelaya said it was "good sign" that "conservative sectors of the country are analyzing a proposal" that includes his reinstatement.

"We will make the respective analysis," Zelaya said in an interview with Channel 11. "We hope to enter into talks with those who are making this proposal in the next hours."

Lawmakers, meanwhile, made clear Congress will revoke an emergency security crackdown if the interim government does not, Rigoberto Chang, a congressman with the conservative National Party, said Tuesday. Congress has the power to lift or modify the decree.

Interim President Roberto Micheletti backtracked on the decree Monday, saying he had agreed to reconsider the move at the request of congressional leaders. But the order appeared to remain in effect Tuesday.

Report: Climate change means more hungry children

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Scientists fear climate change will mean 25 million more hungry children over the next four decades, with subsistence farmers in Africa and Asia particularly hard hit by global warming, according to a report issued Wednesday.

The authoritative International Food Policy Research Institute said even without climate change, 113 million children under 5 years old will be malnourished in 2050 worldwide. With climate change, the figure would be 20 percent more.

As many as 15 million of those additional malnourished children would be African.

"The negative effects of climate change on crop production are especially pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia," the report concludes.

The institute, part of a global network devoted to using science to improve farming, called on governments and donors to invest in research, irrigation and rural roads. These areas are seen as key to helping small-scale farmers produce more and earn more by getting more to market.

Gerald Nelson, a senior International Food Policy Research Institute researcher and lead author of the report, said he hoped negotiators meeting later this year in Copenhagen will approve at least $7 billion a year in spending to help farmers adapt to climate change.

WORLD BRIEFS

Group: Guinea protest death toll climbs to 157

CONAKRY, Guinea (AP)—Guinea's government said Tuesday it would investigate why troops opened fire on protesters at a pro-democracy rally. A human rights group said 157 people were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. While saying it would investigate, the government continued to maintain that the protest was illegal. It also said far fewer people died than reported. Hospitals were flooded with patients Tuesday, and the death toll rose through the day. Presidential guard troops fired on 50,000 people at the main football stadium Monday, shattering hopes that this West African country was shedding the yoke of dictatorship.

Nero's rotating banquet hall unveiled in Rome

ROME (AP)—Archaeologists on Tuesday unveiled what they think are the remains of Roman emperor Nero's extravagant banquet hall, a circular space that rotated day and night to imitate the Earth's movement and impress his guests. The room, part of Nero's Golden Palace, a sprawling residence built in the first century A.D., is thought to have been built to entertain government officials and VIPs, said lead archaeologist Francoise Villedieu. The emperor, known for his lavish and depraved lifestyle, ruled from 37 A.D. to 68 A.D. The dig so far has turned up the foundations of the room, the rotating mechanism underneath and part of an attached space believed to be the kitchens, she said.

Environment

World's largest marine protected areas sign partnership agreement

Two of the world's largest marine protected areas have announced a historic alliance to enhance the management and protection of almost 300,00 square miles of marine habitat in the Pacific Ocean.

President Anote Tong of the Republic of Kiribati witnessed the signing of an agreement with the United States that establishes a "sister site" relationship between the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area near the equator in the Republic of Kiribati. Managers of both sites will meet in November in French Polynesia to formalize the agreement.

The sister site relationship, announced Wednesday last week, links the site and is designed to enhance management knowledge and practices.

Combined, the two sites encompass 25 percent of all marine protected areas on Earth.

Eileen Sobeck, Department of the Interior deputy assistant secretary, signed the agreement of behalf of the United States. Elizabeth Moore, director of International Sanctuaries, represented NOAA at the signing in New York.

"The United States is very pleased to engage in this marine conversation partnership with the Republic of Kiribati," said Sobeck. "In the faces of challenges like climate change and increasing societal demands on ever scarcer marine resources—challenges that transcend national boundaries and dwarf the ability of any single nation to address—partnerships like this one are critical to the success of our efforts to preserve this natural heritage for future generations."

"This agreement represents both the culmination and the start of our work with our colleagues in Kiribati and collaboration between NOAA and our colleagues in the State of Hawaii and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to demonstrate the benefit of collaboration to protect these valuable resources," said Moore.

When it was established in 2006, Papahanaumokuakea was the largest marine protected area in the world, protecting natural, cultural and historic resources within an area of approximately 140,000 square miles. The monument's extensive coral reefs are home to over 7,000 marine species, one quarter of which are found only in the Hawaiian Archipelago.

In 2008, the Phoenix Island Protected Area was founded to protect that archipelago's terrestrial and marine resources, becoming the largest marine protected area in the world today at approximately 158, 500 square miles. The coral reefs and bird populations of the island are highly unique and virtually untouched by humans. The protected area also includes underwater seamounts and other deep-sea habitat.

"Our sites are part of a growing trend globally in ocean protection—establishment of large-scale marine protected areas," said Aulani Wilhelm, NOAA's superintendent for Papahanaumokuakea. "By partnering, we hope to collaborate on innovative initiatives highlighting not only the ecological connections we share, but also Pacific heritage and cultural connections we have as island people across Oceania."

Both areas serve as global "sentinel sites" by providing potential early warning and a comparative baseline of understanding of how natural, less disturbed systems reacts to changing climate conditions and external influences. Although geographically distant from their local population centers, both sites are supported by and rely on involvement of local and indigenous communities to develop successful management regimes.

"Our sites provide ocean insurance for the Pacific against the depletion of marine life that has accelerated across the globe," said Tukabu Terorko, director of the Phoenix Island Protected Area. "Together we can more effectively address the complex challenges of managing such large ocean areas."

"Within these large seascapes we also have protected islands that provided habitat critical to the survival of both marine and terrestrial wildlife," said Susan White, Fish and Wildlife superintendent of Papahanaumokuakea. "This agreement will help us manage across the ecosystems by comparing and sharing our efforts with each other, as we face many of the same challenges." ***(PR)***

COOL SCIENCE

Tiny satellite technology tracks rare Kittlitz's Murrelet

The world's smallest satellite tags have been attached to members of the rare and rapidly declining Kittlitz's Murrelet seabirds. Most of these birds are found in remote, glaciated regions of Alaska, but their wintering grounds have long been unknown. Thanks to tiny solar-powered satellites tags that can be attached to small seabirds, researchers from the USGS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can now study their nesting, foraging and migration ecology. This new technology is even capable of operating successfully in the most extreme subarctic marine environment. Data collected from these tags may help inform conservation strategies for this rare species. Scientists report all tags are functioning and they expect to see birds migrate soon to their wintering grounds. ***(USGS)***

Crayfish don't rock and roll to heavy metal!

Crayfish are not only considered good eating in some places, but they also appear to be a good barometer of how heavy-metal mining activities affect aquatic ecosystems. In the Ozarks, USGS scientists found that crayfish numbers were reduced directly downstream of lead and zinc mines. As metal concentrations increased in water, sediment and the leafy material that crayfish eat, their survival rates plummeted. The absence or reduced abundance of crayfish may harm ecosystem processes, such as nutrient and energy cycling in Ozark streams, not to mention that smallmouth bass and other sport fish might go hungry as they depend on crayfish as a primary food source. Results show that crayfish may be useful indicators for assessing and monitoring the effects of mining in aquatic ecosystems. ***(USGS)***

Death and Funeral Announcement

In Celebration Of His New Life

BUENAVENTURA (BEN) QUICHOCHO MARATITA

Born on May 25, 1941, was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at the age of 68

IN HIS NEW LIFE HE NOW JOINS HIS:

Parents	:	Gregorio Matantaotao and Ana Quichocho Maratita
First Wife	:	Maria Taijeron Maratita
Grandchildren	:	Desirae Monique M. Bonds and Kevin Jude M. Smith
Grandparents	:	Juan Mundo and Presentasion Mantantaotao Maratita (paternal) Vicenter Siguenza and Margarita Manglona Quichocho (maternal)
Sisters	:	Presentasion M. Igitol, Margarita M. Norita, Maria Q. Atalig and Rufina Q. Pangelinan
Brothers	:	Eusebio Q., Vicente Q., Juan Q. and William Q. Maratita and Martino Q. Quitugua
Brothers-In-Law	:	Herman T. Villagomez, Jose A. Atalig and Joaquin I. Norita
Nieces	:	Vicky Ann M. & Mae Elaine M. Igitol

HIS MEMORY WILL FOREVER LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF HIS:

Wife	:	**Myrna Gabion Maratita**
Children and Spouses	:	**Glenda Rene M.** and David Bonds (Calissa and Jasmine) **Rebecca Ann M. Smith** (Konradd and Evonye) **Gregory Jess T.** and Avelina A. Maratita (Allan, Ashley and Vincent Quitugua [Javier, Vincent and Aliana], Lianna, Genna, Gregory and Michael) **Bonaventure John T.** and Cathy Scholing Maratita (Cami and Rachelle) **Russell James T.** and June M. Maratita (Marissa, Meagan and Russell)
Brothers, Sisters & Spouses	:	**David Q.** & Lucy B. Maratita; Victorino N. & Alice S. Igitol; **Oscar Q.** & Visi DLC. Quitugua; **Agnes M. Villagomez;** **Winny M.** & Luis M. Sablan; **Connie Q.** & Eusebio T. Manglona; **Fred Q. Maratita; Franciso Pangelinan; Nora Quitugua and Antonio Q. Maratita**

Also survived by numberous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and godchildren.

Daily mass is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 am & San Antonio Church at 6:00 pm in Saipan, San Francisco De Borja Church at 6:00 am and San Isidro Church at 7:00 pm in Rota and at Our Lady of Peace at 6:00 pm Chalan Pago, Guam.

On Saturday, **October 03, 2009**, his remains will be taken from the Commonwealth Health Center Chapel at 8:15 am and will be flown to Rota at 9:45 am.

On Tuesday, **October 06, 2009**, his remains will be escorted from the Rota Health Center Chapel at 7;30 am to San Francisco De Borja Church for viewing . Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am, Interment will follow at San Jose Cemetery. Lunch will be served immediately after the burial at the Round House.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. Si Yu'us Ma'ase'

Ginen I Familia

In Celebration of His New Life

EDWARD MENDIOLA FLEMING

Better known as "Eddie"

Born: October 1, 1957

Died: September 23, 2009, at the age of 51

In his new life, he now joins his:

Father: George Flores Fleming
Paternal Grandfather & Grandmother: Henry Gordon & Consolacion Flores Fleming
Maternal Grandfather & Grandmother: Joaquin M. & Dolores Sablan Mendiola
Former Parents In-Law: Francisco D. & Maria T. Flores
Sister: Linda Rose Mendiola Fleming

Survived by:

Mother:	Juanita Mendiola Fleming
Children:	James F. & Carol Fleming (Maria, Mia, Me'lia) Shawn Flores Fleming Bethany Jane Maratita Kina Marie C. Sablan Bernadette Audrey B. Fleming
Brothers & Sisters in-law:	Donald/Susan Fleming & kids Lawrence/Jane Fleming & family George/Florence Fleming & family William/Evelyn Fleming & family
Sisters & Brothers in-law:	Evelyn F./Phillip David & family Rhonda F./Felix Nogis & family Cynthia F./Mark Zachares & kids Vivian M. Fleming/Jesse Manibusan & family Alice M. Fleming & family Tania F./Peter Mesa & kids
Former Wife:	Margaret T. Flores
Special Friend:	Sylvia SN. Borja

He will also be missed and remembered in the hearts of numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends.

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00am along with nightly rosary at 7:00pm at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. On Thursday, October 01, 2009 Edward's remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am Mass of Christian Burial will be at 10:30am followed by the interment services at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
THE FAMILY

Life & Style

Carey finds freedom being 'imperfect'

NEW YORK (AP)—Lee Daniels had so much faith in Mariah Carey's acting that when the director's first choice to play a dowdy, no-nonsense social worker—Oscar-winner Helen Mirren—backed out, he quickly asked Carey to step in.

But Daniels was well aware that in hiring Mariah Carey, the actress, he was also likely to get Mariah Carey, the diva—a high-maintenance sideshow that would include an entourage of makeup artists, assistants, publicists and other hangers-on, running counter to the energy he wanted the superstar to exude in his searing drama "Precious."

AP

In this Sept. 18, 2009 photo, singer Mariah Carey poses for a portrait in New York.

He had cast her as the lead in last year's film "Tennessee."

So, as he gave her the role, he also issued a warning: Leave the diva act at home.

"If you come with a strip of makeup on," he recalls telling her, "I will have a backup (actress)."

"I knew that she would be out of her safety zone, and I knew that there would be no one for her to rely on, to say, 'Get me this, get me that,'" he said. "I could see in her eyes- 'What is Lee doing to me?' But I knew that she trusted me."

By putting her faith in Daniels, Carey—who famously flopped in her movie debut "Glitter" in 2001—may have finally proven to critics that formidable talent extends to more than just her voice. She's garnered high praise for her turn in the film, which is being released nationwide on Nov. 6.

But more importantly for Carey, the role helped her shed some of the insecurities that not only hindered her in acting, but in her real life.

"That was such a freeing experience for me," Carey says during a recent interview. "By making me look so bad he brought out the ability to never be self-conscious again, and that was a gift that he gave me."

After years of striving to reach an ideal—from her personal life to her music career—Carey, 39, is embracing life's imperfections, an attitude summed up by the title of her latest album, "Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel."

Producer Tricky, responsible for hits like Rihanna's Grammy-winning "Umbrella," was one of the main writers and producers of the "Memoirs of an Imperfect," along with Carey and The-Dream. Tricky says Carey is "is kind of letting people know, I'm not this perfect angel.

"She has sexual songs and stuff like that that allude to stuff that she's never really touched on before."

But Carey herself points to a something else that shows her new outlook—the fact that she's dropped one of her most infamous diva demands, that she only be photographed on her right side.

"I don't feel like, 'Oh, I have to be on this side, or I have to be on this side—I really had specific things that someone told me when I was 19 starting in the business and I listened to them. ... I don't care anymore," she says, laughing.

"Sometimes I like that side—and Nick likes that side better anyway," she adds.

Nick, of course, is her husband of almost a year and a half—the actor and producer Nick Cannon. The pair married after dating a little over a month: It was a union few took seriously at first.

That's in part because of the 12-year age gap between them (Cannon is 27), but also because they seemed to come from two different worlds. Cannon was seen as a teen star thanks to his Nickelodeon vehicles; Carey is a Grammy-winning superstar and one of the industry's most profitable artists.

"I didn't know what to make of the marriage," said Daniels, a good friend of Carey's, though now he proclaims their bond to be genuine.

"You see her in a place of complete and utter bliss. I want to throw up; I roll my eyes," he says, laughing, before adding with a serious note: "I've seen a changed woman in front of my eyes—you see what love does to someone."

Sitting on a couch while wearing snakeskin Gucci stilettos and sporting curly locks reminiscent of her "Vision of Love" days, Carey talks about how Cannon has changed her life, as he naps in the bed behind her.

"Nick is just a really supportive, very unique man who no matter what the differences are between us, he has been just such, like, a helping hand for me as a human being and a husband," she says. "I feel like I'm not by myself anymore, and no matter who I was with I always felt alone."

Carey says today, "everything is different, I'm in a different place in my life. I really enjoyed being in the studio and coming home and playing songs for Nick and talking about them.

"We have a lot of conversations about music and just listening and dissecting the songs. It's sort of a new thing for me so I really, really enjoyed it."

There's been rampant speculation that there might be another Carey-Cannon production in the making—a baby.

On those rumors, Carey says coyly: "Well, we enjoy practicing."

But after a good laugh, she says now would "not be the right time" because of the pair's busy lives.

As far as working on something else together, like a movie, Carey doesn't rule it out.

"We have to make sure the movie was a stone winner otherwise they would kill us," Carey says. "It'd have to be a comedy," interjects Cannon.

MUSIC REVIEW

Carey's 'Imperfect Angel' is perfect

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

"I should crack you right in your forehead," Mariah Carey sings on the breakup tune "It's a Wrap."

The song, on her latest CD, "Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel," finds a hungover Carey kicking her lover to the curb with particularly harsh words.

"Another early morning, and you walk in like it's nothing ... ain't no doughnuts, ain't coffee," she sings with attitude in her signature high-pitch tone. "Let me take a breath and regain my composure, told you more time, if you (expletive) up it's over."

But even though she's spitting venom, Carey's cooing on the doo-wop sounding song is so sensuous and sweet, even the song's intended target will remain under her spell—as will her listeners.

"Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel" is an exceptional album that is about love—being in it, out of it, over it and trying to reach it. While the subjects are tried and true, they are never tired, thanks to Carey's approach, which mixes a good dose of humor and wit with her multi-octave voice.

"Betcha Gon' Know," the disc's opening track, sets the tone as Carey compares the seriousness of her broken heart to news programs like "60 Minutes," "20/20" and "The Oprah Winfrey Show."

Carey produced and wrote the majority of the album with Christopher "Tricky" Stewart and Terius "The-Dream" Nash—and those hitmakers add their own touch to "Imperfect Angel" without overdoing it.

"Ribbon," which bumps with southern flavor, is radio-friendly, showcasing The-Dream and Tricky's signature sound. As does "Standing O," with its addictive hook.

Other notables tunes include "H.A.T.E.U." ("Having a Typical Emotional Upset"), a beautiful heartbreak ballad, and the top-notch "Candy Bling," a teenage love affair tune that finds Carey so in love she "can't delete your picture from my mind."

Some of the tracks use samples: "Inseparable" interpolates Cyndi Lauper's "Time After Time" and "The Impossible" finds Carey "layin' in the bed bumpin' Jodeci." The latter samples the R&B group's hit song "Forever My Lady."

"Imperfect Angel," though helmed by The-Dream and Tricky, still maintains a classic Mariah sound—especially on the soothing "Angels Cry" and its accompanying prelude, and the personal "Languishing," highlighted by a piano.

No one is perfect—that's obvious. This CD is—that's obvious too.

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Fame
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG
Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame..the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Set in a futuristic world where humans live in isolation and interact vicariously through surrogate robots. Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent who enlists the aid of his own surrogate to investigate the murder of the genius college student who invented the surrogates. As the case grows more complicated, however, the withdrawn detective discovers that in order to actually catch the killer he will have to venture outside the safety of his own home for the first time in many years, and enlists the aid of another agent (Radha Mitchell) in tracking his target down.

Pandorum
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R
Synopsis
Two astronauts awaken in a hyper-sleep chamber aboard a seemingly abandoned spacecraft. It's pitch black, they are disoriented, and the only sound is a low rumble and creak from the belly of the spacecraft. They can't remember anything - who are they, what is their mission? The only way out of the chamber is a dark and narrow airshaft. Corporal Bower, the younger of the two, crawls inside, while the other, Lt. Payton, stays behind for guidance on a radio transmitter. As Bower ventures deeper and deeper into the ship, he begins to uncover a terrifying reality.

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

Gamer
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunnday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Gerald Butler, Amber Valletta
Action, Thriller • Rated R

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Actors Claire Danes, Hugh Dancy wed

In this March 17, 2009 file photo, actress Claire Danes, left, and actor Hugh Dancy attend the premiere of "Valentino: The Last Emperor" at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"My So-Called Life" actress Claire Danes and "Confessions of a Shopaholic" actor Hugh Dancy have married.

Danes' spokeswoman Jodi Gottlieb says the 30-year-old Danes has married the 34-year-old Dancy more than two years after the couple met while filming "Evening." Gottlieb would not provide any additional details about the nuptials.

The couple announced their engagement in February.

Dancy played a man with Asperger's syndrome earlier this year in "Adam."

Dan Rather's $70M lawsuit against CBS thrown out

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York court on Tuesday dismissed Dan Rather's $70 million breach of contract lawsuit against CBS Corp., noting that the network continued to pay the anchor $6 million a year even after he left the evening news broadcast.

Rather sued CBS and its top executives in 2007, claiming he had been removed from his "CBS Evening News" anchor post over a report that examined President George W. Bush's military service.

The Appellate Division of the state Supreme Court—New York's trial-level court—said the complaint "must be dismissed in its entirety."

Rather

The five-judge panel ruled unanimously that a lower court "erred in declining to dismiss Rather's breach of contract claim against CBS."

The court said there was no breach of contract, because CBS still paid Rather his $6 million annual salary after the disputed 2004 broadcast under the "pay or play" provision of his contract.

Rather's lawyer, Martin Gold, said he was "extremely disappointed" in the decision and would appeal it to the Court of Appeals, New York's highest court.

CBS said in a statement it was pleased with Tuesday's ruling.

"The lawsuit is now effectively over," CBS said.

The dispute began with a piece Rather narrated for the now-defunct "60 Minutes II," in which he reported that Bush got preferential treatment during his Vietnam War-era service in the Texas Air National Guard.

Rather cited new documents CBS had obtained, but the authenticity of the documents later came under attack.

Rather kept reporting for "60 Minutes" but was dumped by CBS in June 2006 after 44 years with the network.

DJ AM's death ruled accidental drug overdose

NEW YORK (AP)—DJ AM died accidentally from a lethal cocktail of prescription drugs and cocaine, the medical examiner's office ruled Tuesday.

The toxicology report showed the 36-year-old had in his system cocaine, OxyContin, Hydrocodone or Vicodin, antianxiety drugs Xanax and Ativan, Klonopin which also controls anger, Benadryl, and Levamisole, a drug apparently used to cut cocaine.

The cause of death was acute intoxication due to the combined effects the drugs, the medical examiner's office said. The dosage of each drug was not released.

The celebrity, whose real name was Adam Goldstein, had openly discussed past addictions to crack cocaine, Ecstasy and other drugs.

He was found Aug. 28 in his apartment in New York City's trendy SoHo neighborhood after a friend called 911. Paramedics had to break down the door before they found him, shirtless and wearing sweat pants, in his bed around 5:20 p.m.

Six pills were found in his stomach and a pill in his throat when he was found dead in his apartment. The pill in his throat appeared to be OxyContin. A crack pipe and prescription pill bottles were discovered there.

In October, MTV was to debut his reality show, "Gone Too Far," in which he and concerned families staged interventions for drug abusers. MTV hasn't said whether Goldstein's show will air.

Goldstein was critically hurt in a plane crash last September in Columbia, S.C., that killed four people. He was flying in a Learjet after a performance with Travis Barker, a drummer for the pop-punk band Blink-182 and Goldstein's partner in the duo TRVSDJ-AM.

Barker and Goldstein were burned. Goldstein had to get skin graft surgery but resumed performing about a month later.

Goldstein was known for his mashups—blends of at least two songs. He performed in clubs, on concert stages and at exclusive Hollywood parties. He was famous in part for his personal life—he dated actress-singer Mandy Moore and reality TV star Nicole Richie.

AP

In this March 18, 2006 photo, celebrity disc jockey Adam Goldstein, also known as DJ AM, spins records at the Moody Blues clothing store opening in Scottsdale, Ariz.

'Pulp Fiction' writer sentenced in fatal DUI crash

VENTURA, Calif. (AP)—An Oscar-winning screenwriter of "Pulp Fiction" has been sentenced to a year in jail for causing a fatal traffic crash in Southern California.

Roger Avary was sentenced Tuesday in a Ventura court. He also received five years of probation.

Avary pleaded guilty in August to gross vehicular manslaughter and drunken driving for the 2008 crash that killed a passenger in Avary's Mercedes in Ventura County. Authorities say Avary's car was traveling at more than 100 mph when it crashed into a telephone pole.

Avary's wife was ejected from the vehicle and was treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

Avary and Quentin Tarantino share the 1995 Academy Award for writing "Pulp Fiction." He also co-wrote the screenplay for the movie "Beowulf."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Calif. police seize reality contestant's computer

BUENA PARK, Calif. (AP)—Police are reviewing the computer of a reality show contestant suspected of killing an ex-model, packing her disfigured body in a suitcase and leaving her in a trash bin in Southern California. Buena Park police Lt. Robin Sells said Tuesday that police are analyzing the laptop, which was found in the Canadian motel room where 32-year old Ryan Jenkins committed suicide in August. Jenkins was charged with murdering his 28-year-old wife Jasmine Fiore and fleeing the country. Fiore was found in a suitcase in mid-August, missing the last digit of all her fingers and her teeth, presumably to hamper efforts to identify her. Sells says police hope the computer will reveal information on Fiore's death.

Filing: Jackson's trial lawyers owed $341,000

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The attorneys who successfully defended Michael Jackson against child molestation charges have filed a $341,000 claim against the singer's estate. Court records show attorneys Thomas Mesereau Jr. and Susan Yu filed the claim in Jackson's estate case on Friday. The attorneys defended Jackson against charges that he molested a 13-year-old cancer survivor at his Neverland Ranch in 2003. A jury acquitted the pop superstar of 14 charges in the case. According to the filing, the fees are for work done between July 2005 and February 2006. Jackson died June 25 in Los Angeles.

Issues of color still ripple through American identity

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Wondering in Goldsboro, N.C.," asked why President Barack Obama is considered to be African-American when he's biracial. While your response was accurate, you missed an opportunity to educate your readers by failing to give the historical context as to why most people refer to him as African-American.

There was a time in this country when "blacks"/African-Americans were considered only to be three-fifths (3/5) of a human being. Also, if a person had one drop of "black" blood they were considered black. Although as a society we have progressed intellectually and in our understanding of what a human being is, we continue to hold on to archaic beliefs about skin color that not only pigeonhole an individual, but may force an individual to choose what so-called racial group that he/she identifies with most.

I can clearly see that the conversation regarding "race" and skin color must be continued in this country. Though we've "come a long way, baby," we still have a long way to go in understanding this country's deep-rooted responses to skin color.

LIVING IN AMERICA

DEAR LIVING: I think if one digs deep enough, we will come to the realization that there has always been a component of economic exploitation and perceived economic threat that is, and has been, at the root of racial discrimination. (But that's just my opinion.) Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In Obama's book, "Dreams From My Father," he calls himself a black man of mixed descent. His decision to do that is as much a political decision as it is a personal one.

Most people of color of mixed race in our society have felt we had to choose to be the darker color because we can never be white.

In our society, most people who do or don't know of Obama's mixed background would treat him as a black man. (If you saw him walking down the street, would you say, "Hey, that guy's half-white!") By embracing his political identity he supports and strengthens all black people in the U.S. by standing proudly as one of us.

NICOLE IN MARIN COUNTY, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: African-American does not denote skin color, but an ethnic culture, a term that describes those of us who are descendants of captive Africans in America. It holds the same level of pride as it does for those who pronounce they are Italian-American or Asian-American.

MICHELLE IN MARYLAND

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You write that the term African-American is used in this country as a label that describes skin color. I believe you are correct, and that's the problem. "African-American" identifies origin or ancestry, not skin color. Furthermore, if the anthropologists are right, then—going back far enough—we are ALL African-American.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBER OF
THE HUMAN RACE IN NEW JERSEY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Why can't we all be called just plain AMERICANS if we grow up in America and are citizens of America? I think a lot of people have wondered this.

SANDY B. IN HARRISBURG, PA.

DEAR SANDY: That's a good question and one that I hope will one day be put to rest—if not by our children, then by our children's children.

SINCERELY, ABBY

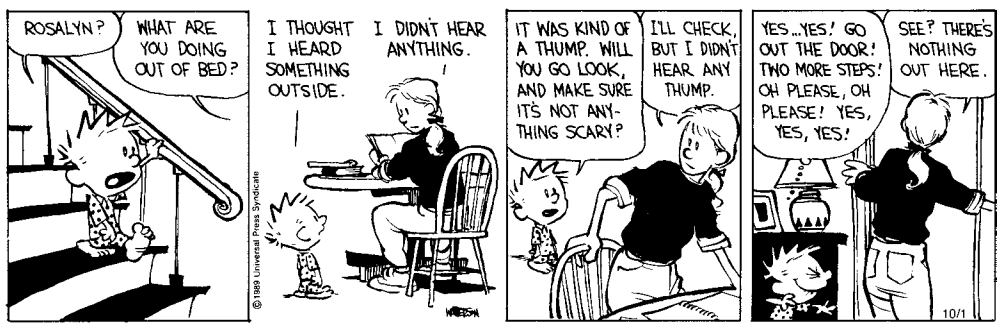
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

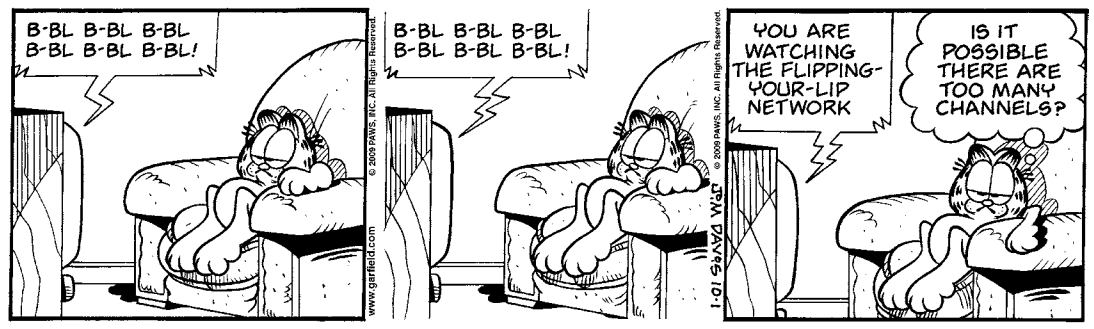
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ROSALYN?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT OF BED?
I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING OUTSIDE.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.
IT WAS KIND OF A THUMP. WILL YOU GO LOOK, AND MAKE SURE IT'S NOT ANYTHING SCARY?
I'LL CHECK, BUT I DIDN'T HEAR ANY THUMP.
YES...YES! GO OUT THE DOOR! TWO MORE STEPS! OH PLEASE, OH PLEASE! YES, YES, YES!
SEE? THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE.
10/1

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL!
B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL B-BL!
YOU ARE WATCHING THE FLIPPING-YOUR-LIP NETWORK
IS IT POSSIBLE THERE ARE TOO MANY CHANNELS?
10/1

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

DINNER TONIGHT IS MY FAVORITE. PASTA WITH MUSHROOM SAUCE!
EWW! MUSHROOMS ARE FUNGUS!
AND PASTA'S MADE FROM ANGEL'S HAIR!
IT'S NOT ACTUALLY ANGEL HAIR. IT'S CALLED THAT BECAUSE IT'S LONG AND BEAUTIFUL AND LUSCIOUS... LIKE AN ANGELS.
SO WOULD YOU BE SPORTING "DEVIL HAIR"?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I THINK I'LL MAKE MY FAMOUS BEEF STEW TONIGHT.
IN THAT CASE, WE'LL NEED MORE POTATOES.
I THINK I'LL MAKE MY FAMOUS BEEF STEW TONIGHT.
OKAY. WE'LL NEED MORE ANTACIDS.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

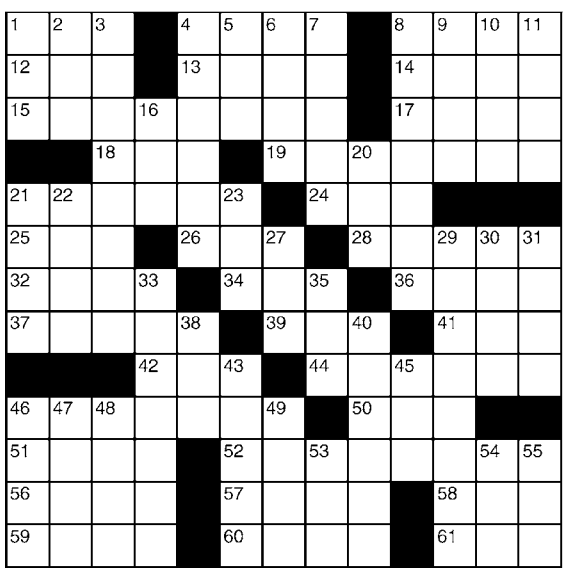
ACROSS
1 Lobbyists' grp.
4 Essence
8 Rich soil
12 Under the weather
13 Sunscreen ingredient
14 Between jobs
15 Makeshift stain remover
17 Rind
18 — -relief
19 Not naked
21 No, for one
24 Have a go at
25 Eggs
26 Aye undoer
28 Treetop decoration, often
32 Dweeb
34 Trump casino hotel, for short
36 Geologist's sample
37 Bad lighting
39 Bankroll
41 Whopper
42 Scull need
44 Short jacket
46 A water sign
50 Fraud-monitoring org.
51 Injury
52 Chorus of a sort
56 Vicinity
57 Verve
58 Work with
59 Cow's hurdle?
60 Fat
61 Satchel

DOWN
1 Snapshot
2 Every crumb
3 Where riders lounge
4 Relay
5 U.N. workers' grp.
6 Lincoln in-law
7 Soul mate?
8 Emulate Milli Vanilli
9 Praiseful pieces
10 Sheltered
11 Pinochle ploy
16 Cudgel
20 Detergent brand
21 Lady of Spain
22 Finished
23 Scoundrel
27 Deviate off course
29 Iron, e.g.
30 One of HOMES
31 Lascivious look
33 Entry-level job?
35 Discord
38 Siesta
40 Protect
43 Bright star of Orion
45 Listending abbr.
46 Counterfeit
47 "— nome" (aria from "Rigoletto")
48 Sandwich treat
49 Stewpot
53 Corn spike
54 NAFTA signatory
55 Plead

Solution time: 25 mins.

D	I	M	■	S	E	A	R	■	B	A	D	E
A	N	A	■	U	R	G	E	■	A	L	O	E
I	C	Y	■	B	R	E	A	K	N	E	C	K
S	H	O	A	L	■	■	P	E	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	R	I	C	A	■	N	E	W	E	L
B	O	O	K	M	A	R	K	■	R	A	C	E
A	L	P	■	E	R	I	E	S	■	C	H	A
S	L	A	W	■	B	A	N	K	B	O	O	K
S	A	L	A	D	■	S	O	U	R	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	E	■	■	L	A	T	E	X
B	R	O	K	E	B	A	C	K	■	O	R	R
R	E	D	O	■	B	L	U	E	■	A	G	A
O	V	E	N	■	S	L	E	D	■	T	O	Y

Yesterday's answer 10-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jay Underwood, 41; Mark McGwire, 46; Randy Quaid, 59; Stella Stevens, 71

Happy Birthday: There is opportunity this year but only if you are willing to hone your ideas to a manageable size. Launching something you believe in or moving from one industry to another will allow you greater freedom. The more unique you are, the more valuable you will become. Dealing with friends, lovers and children will be highlighted. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 26, 32, 42, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Secrets must be kept no matter what. Someone may try to trick or bribe you. Keep busy helping others and developing a plan or project and you can avoid contact with anyone trying to push, prod or persecute you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your ability to work with what you have and come up with something first-rate will give you the edge over any competition. Have confidence in yourself. A change at home will lift your spirits and help your love life. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be careful when dealing with people who may want to use you or your information wrongly. You cannot take chances when it comes to money or your social contacts. Stick strictly to business and don't meddle. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You can make professional changes that will help you move into a position you enjoy. There is money to be made if you stop fearing failure. Create a better work area at home. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your emotions may lead to a poor purchase. Read the fine print and don't fall for a sales pitch promising impossible results. Knowing what you are dealing with upfront will be half the battle. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): The way you feel and see others will change, bringing you greater confidence and willingness to put yourself and your skills to the test. Your practical but unique approach to whatever you do will win favors and respect. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): A social event will help you realize your potential and reunite you with someone from your past. A proposal that can offer you change and a little adventure must be considered carefully. Allow your creative spirit to evolve. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your efforts into the things you enjoy and do best. You cannot allow anyone to make you feel inadequate or put you down. Jealousy is apparent and should be dealt with firmly. A relationship that means a lot to you will take on new meaning. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You should be questioning the motives of yourself as well as those of whomever you are dealing with. Communication will be tense and difficult and may lead to a misunderstanding if you aren't honest about the way you feel. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can turn an old friendship into a new partnership or a goal you once had into a reality. There is a lot for you to consider and a number of changes you must make quickly in order to bring you the happiness you deserve. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Think about ways you can take the pressure off someone you care for by being a little more responsible. Don't let someone's erratic behavior prompt you to make a decision you will live to regret. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotional issues will be brought out into the open. Stick to the facts and don't allow anyone to hand out false information. Your fast action and passionate way of approaching matters will impress someone who can further your interests. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a vivid imagination and a great sense of who you are. You are sensitive, caring and passionate. You strive to be productive and accommodating.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			3	4				
	9							3
5							2	
		9	5		2	6	7	
	5	3				1	9	
	6	4	9		1	3		
	4							7
1							6	
				6	5			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/01

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	8	3	9	1	7	5	4
3	4	1	7	8	5	2	9	6
5	9	7	2	6	4	1	8	3
7	6	5	8	3	9	4	1	2
9	8	4	1	7	2	6	3	5
2	1	3	4	5	6	8	7	9
4	5	2	9	1	7	3	6	8
1	3	6	5	2	8	9	4	7
8	7	9	6	4	3	5	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/30

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MICHAEL JACKSON (1958-2009) **Solution: 10 letters**

N	R	E	N	I	A	M	R	E	J	I	N	F	(C)	V
A	A	E	V	N	O	L	R	A	M	N	O	C	(I)	O
E	N	N	B	I	R	O	C	K	Y	U	M	D	(P)	C
J	D	I	L	B	F	K	G	V	N	O	E	L	(E)	A
E	Y	R	A	I	I	L	N	D	T	O	T	L	J	L
I	T	E	N	E	O	E	A	O	T	M	D	A	K	I
L	I	H	K	V	T	T	W	R	S	A	N	W	L	S
L	R	T	E	C	I	N	R	E	I	E	E	E	A	T
I	A	A	T	O	T	E	C	T	T	R	G	H	W	R
B	H	K	N	I	L	N	E	T	R	C	E	T	N	E
E	C	S	B	L	I	M	W	I	A	S	L	F	O	C
A	W	S	I	R	A	P	O	L	I	V	E	F	O	N
T	O	R	P	F	L	E	R	G	S	O	L	O	M	O
I	H	C	N	A	R	O	L	Y	A	T	O	U	R	C
T	S	S	E	C	N	A	D	S	E	L	B	B	U	B

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Artist, Beat It, Billie Jean, Blanket, Bubbles, Charity, Concerts, Dances, Epic, Fame, Five, Foundations, Glitter, Glove, Icon, Jackie, Janet, Jermaine, Katherine, LaToya, Legend, Live, Marlon, Moonwalk, Motown, Off The Wall, Paris, Prince, Ranch, Randy, Rebbie, Rock, Scream, Show, Solo, Taylor, Thriller, Tito, Tour, Video, Vocalist, World

Yesterday s Answer: Writing

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Red Sox clinch playoff berth despite loss

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox are back in the playoffs for the sixth time in seven years.

The Red Sox clinched the AL wild-card berth when the Los Angeles Angels beat the Rangers 5-2 on Tuesday night and eliminated Texas from the race. That gave Boston its seventh wild-card berth—more than any other team in the majors.

The Red Sox had long since lost to Toronto—their fifth consecutive loss—and most of the players left Fenway Park to find someplace else to wait for the West Coast game to end. Slugger David Ortiz said he would come back to the clubhouse for the traditional spraying of the champagne.

"Hell, yeah," he shouted, calling for a clubhouse attendant to give him a pair of goggles. "We worked our way to be in this situation. Even not winning this game tonight, you move into the playoffs so there's a celebration."

Adam Lind hit three of Toronto's six homers to lead the Blue Jays to an 8-7 victory and put Boston's celebration on hold. The Red Sox scored five times in the eighth inning and put two on with two outs in the ninth before Jason Frasor got Kevin Youkilis looking on a 3-2 pitch to end it.

"I had that feeling," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said hopefully. "We've had games where we won like that. Just try to get the tying run to the plate and give yourself a chance."

The Red Sox clubhouse was quiet afterward, and the televisions were off while reporters milled about waiting for players to interview. Francona said he was going out with his son, and when asked if he would watch the Rangers game catcher Victor Martinez said, "I don't know. I might be sleeping by that time."

AP

Boston Red Sox's Kevin Youkilis tosses his bat after striking out against the Toronto Blue Jays to end the baseball game in an 8-7 loss for the Red Sox at Fenway Park in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009.

Twins 3, Tigers 2, 10 innings, 1st game
Tigers 6, Twins 5, 2nd game

At Detroit, Justin Verlander kept the Tigers on top in the AL Central, pitching eight innings in a win over Minnesota that salvaged a split of their critical doubleheader.

Detroit restored two-game division lead over Minnesota, which won the day game 3-2 in 10 innings, with two games left in the series and five to go in the regular season.

Verlander (18-9) gave up four runs and eight hits. Fernando Rodney pitched the ninth for his 36th save in 37 chances, overcoming some shaky defense that allowed Minnesota to pull within a run.

Brian Duensing (5-2) gave up five runs over 4 2-3 innings for the Twins, who had a chance to at least tie the game in the eighth and ninth.

Delmon Young started the Minnesota ninth with an infield single. Rodney retired the next two batters and Nick Punto followed with a fly ball to center that Curtis Granderson misjudged, allowing it to go over his head and helping the Twins pull within a run. Rodney then got Denard Span to hit a game-ending fly to left.

Orlando Cabrera hit a go-ahead single in the 10th inning of the opener, leading Minnesota to the win.

Rays 3, Orioles 1

At St. Petersburg, Florida, rookie Wade Davis allowed one run over seven innings and Carl Crawford stole his career-high 60th base as Tampa Bay handed Baltimore its 12th straight loss.

The Orioles' slide is the longest in the majors this season. Tampa Bay (Sept. 3-13) and Cleveland (Sept. 13-24) both had 11-game skids. It is Baltimore's longest slump since dropping 12 in a row Aug. 16-28, 2004. The Orioles (60-97) are a season-worst 37 games under .500.

Davis (2-1) gave up seven hits, with six coming in the first three innings. The right-hander retired his last 11 batters.

Ben Zobrist had a run-scoring double during a two-run first for the Rays, who are 9-5 after an 11-games losing streak.

Yankees 4, Royals 3

At New York, A.J. Burnett pitched well in an encouraging playoff tuneup as New York rallied for two runs in the ninth inning to get its seventh straight victory.

Little-used Juan Miranda got the game-winning hit off ex-Yankee Kyle Farnsworth (1-5), an infield single that caromed off the reliever's leg and into foul territory between home plate and first base. Miranda raised his arms in jubilation as he crossed the bag and the AL East champions rushed out of the dugout to celebrate as if they'd just won a playoff series.

Brian Bruney (5-0) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings to get the win.

Angels 5, Rangers 2

At Anaheim, California, Bobby Abreu homered and fill-in starter Sean O'Sullivan earned his first win in two months as the Los Angeles Angels eliminated Texas from playoff contention.

Pinch-hitter Mike Napoli had a two-run single as the Angels improbably battered Texas ace Scott Feldman (17-7), who has lost three of his last four starts in a blow to his Cy Young Award hopes.

Brian Fuentes worked the ninth for his major league-leading 46th save, a career high and a new AL record for the most saves by a pitcher in his first season with a team.

Mariners 6, Athletics 4

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. started what might be his final homestand with career homer No. 628, and Felix Hernandez added another strong effort to his AL Cy Young Award resume.

Griffey has been mostly evasive about his future plans following the end of the season, but the Mariners icon hit three-run homer off Oakland starter Trevor Cahill in the fifth inning.

Cahill (10-13) became the 406th different pitcher to give up a long ball to Griffey in his storied career.

Hernandez (18-5) struggled with his control, walking four and hitting two batters, but lasted 7 2-3 innings and improved to 7-1 since Aug. 1. He gave up seven hits, struck out four and threw a season-high 120 pitches in his next-to-last start of 2009.

Rockies 7, Brewers 5

At Denver, pinch-hitter Chris Iannetta hit a two-run homer off David Weathers in the 11th inning to give the Colorado Rockies a victory over the Milwaukee Brewers.

Iannetta sent a 3-2 fastball into the Rockies' bullpen in right-center for his 16th homer and first career game-ending drive.

The Rockies widened their NL wild-card lead to three games over Atlanta with five games remaining.

Jason Kendall hit a three-run homer off closer Huston Street with one out in the ninth to tie it at 5-5.

Matt Belisle (3-1), the seventh Rockies pitcher, picked up the win with a 1-2-3 11th. Weathers (4-6) walked Brad Hawpe and got pinch-hitter Jason Giambi to pop out before Iannetta connected.

Padres 3, Dodgers 1

At San Diego, Tony Gwynn Jr. homered and Kevin Kouzmanoff singled in the go-ahead run as San Diego kept the Dodgers from clinching their second straight NL West title.

The Dodgers have lost three straight since securing a playoff spot on Saturday night. Colorado didn't do the Dodgers any favors, beating Milwaukee 7-5 in 11 innings.

Tuesday's results forced the Dodgers to keep on ice the champagne they'd lugged with them from Pittsburgh, where they lost three of four to the Pirates, the NL's second-worst team.

Phillies 7, Astros 4

At Philadelphia, Pedro Feliz hit a grand slam as Philadelphia moved closer toward third straight NL League title with a victory over Houston.

The defending World Series champions reduced their magic number for winning the division to one after Atlanta lost.

J.A. Happ (12-4) allowed four runs — three earned — and nine hits in 5 2-3 innings, striking out six.

Jayson Werth hit a two-run homer and Philadelphia's injury-plagued bullpen tossed 3 1-3 scoreless innings. Jamie Moyer got four outs and Ryan Madson pitched the last two innings for his 10th save in 16 chances.

Marlins 5, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Jorge Cantu hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the seventh inning as Florida damaged Atlanta's playoff hopes and snapped the Braves' seven-game winning streak.

Cameron Maybin's two-run homer gave the Marlins a 4-1 lead in the fifth inning but Matt Diaz hit a tying three-run drive in the sixth for the Braves.

Florida went ahead for good in the seventh. Chris Coghlan led off with a double and advanced on Maybin's sacrifice. Hanley Ramirez was intentionally walked before Cantu's hit off Kenshin Kawakami (7-12) gave the Marlins the lead.

Renyel Pinto (4-1) pitched 1 1-3 scoreless innings to earn his first win since June 30, a span of 40 appearances.

Reds 7, Cardinals 2

At Cincinnati, Jay Bruce homered twice and had a career-high five RBIs as Cincinnati downed St. Louis.

The Cardinals, who wrapped up the NL Central title with a 6-3 win at Colorado on Saturday, have lost four of five. Joel Pineiro (15-12) allowed seven runs and eight hits in six innings to fall to 1-3 in his last four starts.

Albert Pujols, who entered with NL record-tying five grand slams this season, just missed another one when he hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth that center fielder Willy Taveras caught just short of the track.

David Freese hit his first career homer for St. Louis in the ninth.

Nationals 4, Mets 3

At Washington, pinch-runner Justin Maxwell scored the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning thanks to two wild throws as Washington edged New York.

With the score tied at 3, Mike Morse walked with one out against Nick Green (1-4) and Maxwell ran for him. Cristian Guzman grounded to short, but former Nationals infielder Anderson Hernandez's throw to first was off target, allowing Guzman to reach.

Ian Desmond, who had earlier hit a two-run homer, grounded to short. Hernandez threw to second baseman Luis Castillo to force Guzman, but Castillo's relay to first landed in Washington's dugout and Maxwell scored.

Cubs 6, Pirates 0

At Chicago, Ryan Dempster pitched a five-hitter for his third career shutout and Jeff Baker had a two-run double as Chicago blanked Pittsburgh.

Derrek Lee added a two-run single for the Cubs, who have won seven of nine games.

The Cubs (82-74) guaranteed a winning record for the third straight season. It's only the second time in the last 70 years the Cubs have had three or more consecutive winning seasons.

Dempster (11-8) struck out six and walked two in his first shutout since July 3, 2001, against the Montreal Expos when he was with the Marlins.

Giants 8, Diamondbacks 4

At San Francisco, Bengie Molina homered twice and Pablo Sandoval had four hits as San Francisco kept its slim wild-card hopes alive.

Molina hit a two-run homer off Doug Davis in the fourth and followed Sandoval's two-run shot in the seventh with a drive off Leo Rosales.

The Giants trail wild card-leading Colorado by five games with five left on their schedule. Jonathan Sanchez (8-12) allowed three runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Miguel Montero homered twice, including a two-run drive into McCovey Cove in the sixth, for Arizona. Davis (8-14) got the loss.

Lights, cameras focus in on newlywed Odom

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Pardon Lamar Odom for looking tired.

Maybe it was the early hour, so soon after his weekend wedding to reality starlet Khloe Kardashian. Or perhaps it was the abbreviated honeymoon. Whatever the case, the Los Angeles Lakers forward appeared haggard at the team's media day Tuesday.

Coach Phil Jackson appeared briefly, wearing a bemused smile as he watched the two-hour circus unfold, but he didn't speak.

Odom and free agent Ron Artest were the media magnets, making Kobe Bryant almost an afterthought on opening day of training camp for the defending NBA champions.

Odom, Artest, Bryant and Derek Fisher each had their publicists run interference with the hoard of reporters, photographers and TV cameramen.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers forward Lamar Odom, who was recently married to reality starlet Khloe Kardashian, smiles during the NBA basketball team's media day Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009, in El Segundo, Calif.

"Entertainment Tonight" sent a crew, too.

Odom wasn't providing details on his surprise wedding, coming just weeks after he met Kardashian, because of contractual obligations with E!, the cable network that airs her reality series, Lakers spokesman John Black said.

The 29-year-old forward's publicist said he couldn't discuss it for privacy reasons.

"Anybody that was there would tell you that it was a beautiful event and it was real," Odom said, quashing speculation that the nuptials were a publicity stunt for his new wife's show.

A Los Angeles Times online poll asked what people thought about Odom's wedding. "It's all just for publicity" drew the highest response of 33.5 percent.

"I don't need that. I get enough with the Lakers," Odom said. "I do well for myself."

Another 23.9 percent voted for "They haven't known each other long enough and should wait."

"There's people who've been married for 25 years and they get divorced," Odom said. "There's people who get married overnight and the next thing you know they've been married 25 years."

Jackson and his girlfriend, Lakers executive Jeanie Buss, attended the wedding Sunday at a private home in Beverly Hills, along with Bryant and his wife, Artest and Luke Walton.

"It was good to see Lamar happy and having fun," Walton said. "He's happy, which normally translates to playing better on the court."

Artest endorsed the union, saying, "It was beautiful and it was meant to be."

He reportedly played matchmaker, with his childhood basketball opponent Odom and Kardashian meeting at a party Artest hosted.

"That's what I heard, but I don't know," he said. "I won't run away from the credit."

Artest later donned fake dreadlocks in a nod to Manny Ramirez for a taped piece of him reading the fan conduct code at Dodger Stadium, which will be shown during baseball playoff games.

Bryant was unfazed by the mob scene, and downplayed talk of any distractions surrounding the team.

"It's a huge story now and it'll die out," he said about Odom's marriage. "Everything will be smooth."

Bryant said he didn't touch a basketball for two months during the summer, a change from last year when he went from the NBA season to playing in the Beijing Olympics.

"All I did was get healthier," he said. "My legs feel rejuvenated. I feel like I'm in great shape, nothing is nagging me outside of the hand and the fingers."

Bryant and Artest are playing for the same team after tangling as opponents in last season's Western Conference semifinals. Then with Houston, Artest was ejected from Game 2, won by the Lakers, after pointing at Bryant and gesturing near his throat. Artest complained that he was elbowed in the throat by Bryant.

"We've already started talking trash a little bit," Bryant said. "I won't divulge, but it's fun and it makes practices fun and intense and competitive. We'll have a good time."

Rockets' McGrady says rehab is ahead of schedule

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets forward Tracy McGrady said Monday he's "far ahead of schedule" in his recovery from knee surgery and wants to show that he's still got a few good years left in him.

The seven-time All-Star underwent a risky microfracture procedure on his left knee on Feb. 24, and doctors said his recovery could take up to 12 months. McGrady said he hasn't set a date for his return, but he can already run and jump several weeks ahead of doctors' expectations.

"It's only seven months out, post-op," McGrady said at the Rockets' media day Monday. "It's not time to really rush it back. Confidence-wise, running, cutting, jumping - I have that right now."

General manager Daryl Morey said McGrady will have an MRI exam Nov. 23 and the team will have a better feel for when he'll return after that.

"We're just taking it each step at a time," Morey said. "If he can play after Nov. 23, I think he'll still be ahead of schedule. But we don't know what the MRI is going to show."

Yao Ming, Houston's other seven-time All-Star, was a no-show as he recovers from surgery to repair a hairline fracture in his left foot.

Yao isn't expected to play this season and when the Rockets open training camp on Tuesday, they'll hardly resemble the team that pushed the Los Angeles Lakers to seven games in the second round of the playoffs last year.

Ron Artest was traded to the Lakers, Trevor Ariza came to Houston and Australian David Andersen was signed to play center in Yao's absence.

"So much has changed. The people that we're missing are huge pieces," Coach Rick Adelman said. "It's going to be interesting to see how the guys respond. We've become a very young team, guys are going to have to accept different roles and we're going to have to see what people can do."

Adelman will leave it to the doctors to tell him when McGrady can come back.

"If he can play, that'd be terrific," Adelman said. "If Tracy McGrady can get healthy and play, he's going to make my life a lot easier."

McGrady played in only 35 games last season, opting for season-ending surgery at the All-Star break. The Rockets made a surprising late-season run without him, then knocked off Portland in the playoffs before taking on the Lakers.

McGrady spent his summer in Chicago, rehabilitating with Tim Grover, the former personal trainer of Michael Jordan. McGrady called the grueling workouts "the hardest thing I ever had to go through" and conceded that he passed out from exhaustion during one of the sessions.

"He pushed me to a level that I've never been," McGrady said. "There was a point that he saw where I was going to be before I even saw it. It took me a while to really understand and really gain the confidence in myself that I was going to reach that level."

McGrady said from the first day of training camp last year that he wasn't totally healthy. He averaged 15.6 points and five assists per game, but was sluggish and tentative on the court.

He said dealing with his balky knee every day wore him down mentally, and he started to lose his desire to play.

"Going through that injury and going through just everything last season, I got frustrated," he said. "When you've got to deal with injuries like that, it's hard to love the game of basketball, it's hard to get up in the morning and go play a game, because you can't be yourself.

"That's how it was last year," he said. "It was hard to come here, knowing that I can't be me."

McGrady is entering the final year of his contract but said he's not thinking about his future beyond this season.

He acknowledged that he probably shouldn't have played at all last season and said he won't come back before doctors say he can.

"I don't want to rush anything," he said.

With Pennington out, Dolphins get Thigpen

MIAMI (AP)—Chad Pennington's season officially ended with a trade that didn't involve him.

The Miami Dolphins placed Pennington on the reserve-injured list to create a roster spot for quarterback Tyler Thigpen, who was acquired Tuesday from the Kansas City Chiefs for an undisclosed draft pick.

Pennington hurt his right shoulder Sunday at San Diego, an injury that leaves his career in jeopardy. At 33, he likely faces a third operation on the shoulder since 2005.

Thigpen shores up depth behind second-year pro Chad Henne, who is expected to make his first NFL start Sunday against Buffalo. Rookie Pat White is the Dolphins' other quarterback.

Thigpen, a third-year pro, went 1-10 as a starter for the woeful Chiefs last year and threw for 2,608 yards with 18 touchdowns and 12 interceptions. Kansas City acquired Matt Cassel in the offseason, and Thigpen lost a battle this year with Brodie Croyle for the No. 2 job.

Thigpen is excited about the move to Miami, even though the Dolphins are 0-3, said his agent, Joel Turner.

"It's not like that team is short on talent - they won the division last year," Turner said. "It's a wonderful opportunity. Nobody does it like Bill Parcells. For Bill Parcells to believe in Tyler speaks volumes about Tyler."

Parcells may have wildcat duty in mind for Thigpen, who ran a spread offense last year with the Chiefs. At 225 pounds, he's a powerful runner and the first quarterback in Chiefs history to score a touchdown three ways: as a passer, rusher and receiver.

Henne is expected to get an extended opportunity as a starter. Taken in the second round of the 2008 draft, he has been considered Pennington's heir apparent for more than a year.

The Dolphins will be Thigpen's third organization. He was a seventh-round draft pick by Minnesota in 2007.

Cavs' Delonte West misses team's first practice

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Less than 24 hours after saying he was focused on basketball, Delonte West skipped Cleveland's first day of practice.

The Cavaliers' troubled guard did not show up for Tuesday's morning workout to the surprise of coach Mike Brown, and missed the evening session at Cleveland Clinic Courts.

General manager Danny Ferry said West, who has been treated for bipolar disorder, was not in any harm.

"Delonte is in Cleveland," Ferry said via e-mail Tuesday night. "He is addressing a personal matter."

West, who has battled depression and mood disorders for years, was recently arrested for gun possession in Maryland after police pulled over his three-wheel motorcycle for a traffic violation and found he was carrying three loaded weapons—two handguns and a shotgun in a guitar case he had on his back.

West was charged with two counts of possessing a concealed handgun, which is a misdemeanor in Maryland. He has a court date on Nov. 20.

West was in good spirits on Monday at the team's media day. He said he had resumed taking his medications and was excited about the upcoming season. West downplayed his recent arrest, saying once the details were known "you'll see that it's not as big as some are making it."

Brown offered support to West, but said he has to move ahead and coach the other 19 players who are in camp.

"On a personal note, you always hope he's doing well," Brown said of West. "But I have to continue looking forward and coaching this team. Whether it is Delonte or somebody else, if they miss practice and it is unexcused it will be handled internally."

West left the team during training camp last season to get treatment for bipolar disorder, an illness he said he has been dealing with for years. West returned to the team renewed and talked openly about his battles with depression and mood swings.

He wound up having his best all-around season as a pro, averaging 11.7 points, 3.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists. He also shot a career-best 40 percent from 3-point range and averaged a career-high in steals while helping the Cavs win 66 games, a franchise record.

West made 64 starts, another 14 in the playoffs, and was arguably the Cavs' second-most productive player in the postseason after LeBron James.

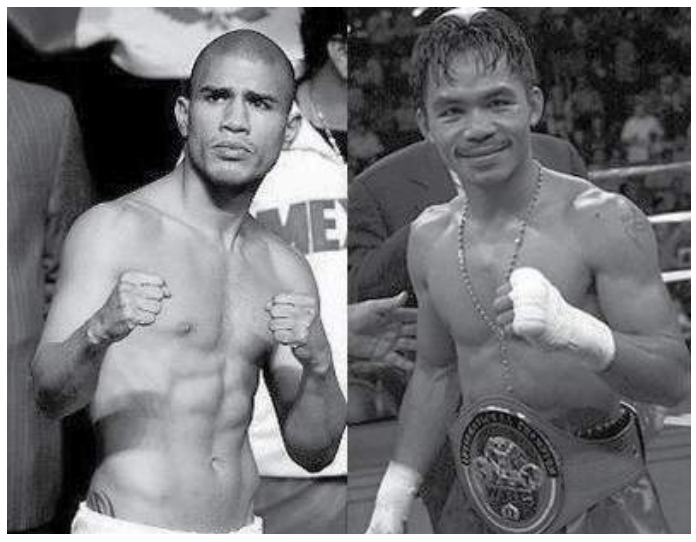
Pacquiao will knock Cotto out, says Roach

BOXING

MANILA, Philippines—Manny Pacquiao to beat Miguel Cotto by decision? Trainer Freddie Roach is having second thoughts.

Impressed by the frenetic pace by which Pacquiao is attacking his preparations for his fight against the Puerto Rican, Roach now believes that the Filipino ring icon has what it takes to knock out the reigning World Boxing Organization welterweight champion.

"I picked him to win by decision, but until I started working with him to this camp, the way he's punching, his speed, we will knock this guy out," Roach said of Pacquiao, who announced over national television Tuesday that he was donating P1 million to relief drives for the victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy."



Cotto

Pacquiao

"I commiserate with the victims of the tropical storm," Pacquiao told a news station in Filipino, adding that he will try to fly to Manila on Sunday during a break in training to distribute relief goods to victims of the flash floods triggered by Ondoy. "We will be giving rice, noodles and other relief goods."

Pacquiao (49-3-2, 37 knockouts) will battle Cotto (34-1, 27 KOs) over 12 rounds for the Puerto Rican's World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight crown on Nov. 14 at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas. Both combatants agreed to fight at a catch weight of 145 lb.

Things picked up in Team Pacquiao's preparation for that bout with sparring sessions kicking off Tuesday.

Pacquiao's sparring partners Shawn Porter and Urbano Antillon hit the Philippine summer capital yesterday, with Freddie Roach describing Porter as the one who can really mimic the Puerto Rican Cotto.

Porter, who is bigger than Cotto, moves like the Puerto Rican star. Porter, a middleweight, is listed as 5-foot-7 and owns a record of 10-0 record, with eight wins by knockout.

Antillon, a former Pacquiao sparring partner who owns a victory over the Filipino's younger brother Bobby, owns an impressive record of 26-1, with 19 knockouts.

"Basically we're going to have a fast start and we're not going to give [Cotto] any momentum," said Roach. "The way Manny is really fighting right now, I guess we're going to frustrate Cotto with his speed."

Meanwhile, Jeff Mayweather, uncle of undefeated American Floyd Mayweather Jr., feels that a Pacquiao loss to Cotto will not rub off the luster from a showdown between the Filipino ring icon and the undefeated American. ***(PDI)***

HAVING

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"A lot of sports share many things in common, despite their obvious differences. Good footwork is imperative in most sports, and I try my best to carry that into the tennis and basketball courts or soccer pitch. Teamwork is essential in basketball and soccer, and doubles for tennis. The individual drive and focus and self-confidence you need for singles in tennis also carries over well into team sports, because you have your own obligations as an individual even if you are playing with a team," Schuler said.

However, playing different sports also has its downside.

"It is hard to be great at any one sport when you are playing so many—it doesn't leave time to practice one sport and fine-tune your game. But it definitely does help one have fun on island with a variety of activities and to stay in shape, and that's why I play them all," added Schuler, who has two main concerns in playing various games—bring the proper uniform and lots of fluids.

"My preparations mostly consist of remembering what clothes and equipment to bring. I try to stretch for no matter what sport I'm about to play, that doesn't always happen. I'm usually pretty happy if I can just remember to bring the correct shoes and uniform and water. I bring a lot of water or my favorite way to quench my thirst—Pedialyte. It may be baby juice, but it's second to none when you need to re-hydrate," Schuler said.

Hoops first

Schuler, who suits up for CPA-Accounting in the ongoing 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, first played basketball during his elementary years in Iowa and tried various sports after that with the encouragement of his parents.

"I started playing basketball first through my Iowa hometown's youth sports association when I was around eight years old. My father played football and basketball in high school, and my mother was a cheerleader. Neither of my parents played sports in college, although they encouraged my sister and I to play any and all sports that we enjoyed and to pick some activity in particular and take it as far as we could go," Schuler said.

Schuler, who is one of the court generals for CPA-Accounting, ranked basketball as second to tennis as far as gauging his excellence in the sport is concerned.

Best in tennis

Schuler admitted he performs best on the tennis court.

"Racquet sports usually come pretty easy for me," said Schuler, who had won several tournaments on Saipan in the past two years and played Division I tennis in the NCAA.

"I played Division I tennis for Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. I was injured my senior year, so my biggest victories came my junior year. My best singles victory came when I beat the reigning conference champion to claim the 2002 Missouri Valley Conference Championship at the No. 6 singles slot," Schuler said.

"My biggest doubles victory also came my junior year when my partner and I made it to the semifinals of our regional tournament, earning a spot as one of the four best doubles teams in the region, and just outside of the Top 30 doubles teams in the nation," he added.

Schuler started playing competitive tennis at the age of 10 and picked up the sport to prove something to his parents.

"My parents were playing tennis during our vacation, but wouldn't let me play because I had never played before. If I played, my parents would inevitably spend more time chasing balls than hitting balls. So I walked away mad and borrowed a racquet and ball and started practicing against the backboard. I set out to prove to my parents that I could play tennis, and I did," Schuler said.

More sports

Schuler began playing competitive soccer only on Saipan this year. He played for Remington in the 2009 NMIFA Men's Football League.

"I played soccer through middle school, but reluctantly gave it up in high school to focus on playing tennis in college. I just started playing soccer competitively on Saipan this year," Schuler said, who is also into golf and is hoping to add badminton on the list in the future.

"I would like to think I'm competitive in golf, but that all depends on who I am playing with. I also hope to pick up badminton on Saipan, but I haven't made time to do so yet," he added.

JOSHUA

From Page 28

fected by the disaster.

Fiji widens gap

With its victory in the Rugby League Sevens over the Cook Islands in the finals, 20-12, and nine more gold medals, Fiji is headed for breakaway in the overall medal tally.

Fiji now has a 31-16-15 gold-silver-bronze medal tally for a total of 62 medals. Before Monday and early Tuesday's games, Fiji had only 21 gold medals, 12 silver, and 15 bronze and was ahead by only two gold medals against Tahiti (19-16-13).

Tahiti is still in second place, but fell behind by 11 gold medals against Fiji as the French territory now only has a 20-17-14 gold-silver-bronze medal tally for a total of 51 medals.

Defending champion New Caledonia remains in third place with its 41 medals, 15 of which are gold, 12 are silver, and 14 are bronze. Host Cook Islands is in the No. 4 spot with its 9-10-9 tally, followed by Tonga (5-10-12).

SSC

From Page 28

as this," SSC president Sam Martinsen said.

"Saipan Swim Club hosts many ocean swims throughout the year and therefore knows the value of clean beaches and water," he added.

Participating in a beach cleanup drive is not new to SSC, as last year it had the same activity at the Forbidden Island Beach. This year, SSC also added Wing Beach on its watch list.

SSC swimmers spent time cleaning beaches last month while waiting to return to the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The facility has been undergoing repairs and cleaning for about a month now, leaving SSC to look for alternate training venues—the Pacific Islands Club and Coral Ocean Point pools.

"Saipan Swim Club wishes to thank both PIC and Coral Ocean Point for providing practice facilities for SSC swimmers while the Marpi pool is being repaired," SSC official Lisa Kimball said.

Kimball in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* said yesterday that they are hoping for the re-opening of the Marpi pool early this month to resume their developmental classes.

Kimball added with the re-opening of the Marpi pool still hanging in the balance, SSC may push back its tournaments. Last year, SSC held the All Schools Meet mid October, but this year's event may be re-scheduled on a later date.

Meanwhile, registration for beginners classes is ongoing, while practice for advanced swimmers is also taking place and has only a few slots left. Kimball added once the Marpi pool is re-opened, masters classes will also resume.

To register or for more information, contact Kimball at 322-7130 or via email at coach@saipanswimclub.com

G-STARS

From Page 28

following their 72-48 rout of the Celtics on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was the G-Stars' fourth victory in as many games, helping the team keep their distance over second-running Sonics (5-1) and the Sixers (5-1).

The Celtics dropped to 0-5 and remained at the bottom of the team standings.

The Celtics looked good in the first half, as they fell behind by only a hair at halftime, 28-29.

The league's leading scorer, Tim Taguchi, kept the G-Stars at bay in the first 20 minutes of play, as the Celtics gunner scored eight points in the first half. Sean Sablan and James Webb chipped in six points apiece in the first half to boost the Celtics' bid for their first win.

Nate Mateo put the G-Stars on the driver's seat in the first half after earning a living from the 15-foot line. Mateo made six points from the foul line and had 11 first-half points, as he and Rodney Santos tried to bail the G-Stars out of trouble over the hard-fighting Celtics.

Mateo then went cold in the second half, as he was held to only a field goal. However, his teammates stepped up in the second half to turn a one-point lead to a blowout win.

Marvin Rabauliman, who saw limited minutes in the first half, drilled in all his 12 points in the second half to lead the G-Stars' breakaway.

J.R. Concepcion and Dan Mateo combined for 10 markers in the second half, Clayton Kenty chipped in six, and four other G-Stars players made at least three points for a balance scoring.

Taguchi led all scorers with his 18 points, making two triples in the second half, but these were not enough to bring the Celtics back in the game and give his team a decent finish.

Taguchi simply lacked support from his teammates in the second half. Besides Taguchi, only two other Celtics players made it into the scoreboard in the second half with Webb contributing six points and Cameron Nicolas adding two points.

G-Stars 72 – N. Mateo 13, Rabauliman 12, Concepcion 9, Salas 8, Kenty 8, D. Mateo 7, Jung 4, Devero 4, Castro 3, Chan 2, F.manalili 2

Celtics 48 – T. Taguchi 18, Webb 14, Sablan 8, Nicolas 4, J. Villagomez, Camacho 2

Scoring by halves: 29-28, 72-48.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	102	56	.646	–
z-Boston	91	66	.580	10 1/2
Tampa Bay	81	76	.516	20 1/2
Toronto	74	84	.468	28
Baltimore	60	97	.382	41 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	84	73	.535	–
Minnesota	82	75	.522	2
Chicago	76	81	.484	8
Cleveland	64	92	.410	19 1/2
Kansas City	64	94	.405	20 1/2

West Division

y-Los Angeles	93	64	.592	–
Texas	85	72	.541	8
Seattle	81	76	.516	12
Oakland	75	82	.478	18

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	91	66	.580	–
Atlanta	86	71	.548	5
Florida	84	74	.532	7 1/2
New York	67	91	.424	24 1/2
Washington	54	103	.344	37

Central Division

y-St. Louis	90	67	.573	–
Chicago	82	74	.526	7 1/2
Milwaukee	77	80	.490	13
Cincinnati	75	82	.478	15
Houston	73	84	.465	17
Pittsburgh	59	97	.378	30 1/2

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	65	.589	–
Colorado	89	68	.567	3 1/2
San Francisco	84	73	.535	8 1/2
San Diego	73	85	.462	20
Arizona	68	89	.433	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Philadelphia 7, Houston 4
Washington 4, N.Y. Mets 3
Florida 5, Atlanta 4
Cincinnati 7, St. Louis 2
Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 0
Colorado 7, Milwaukee 5, 11 innings
San Diego 3, L.A. Dodgers 1
San Francisco 8, Arizona 4
Minnesota 3, Detroit 2, 10 innings, 1st game
Detroit 6, Minnesota 5, 2nd game
N.Y. Yankees 4, Kansas City 3
Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, ppd., rain
Tampa Bay 3, Baltimore 1
Toronto 8, Boston 7
L.A. Angels 5, Texas 2
Seattle 6, Oakland 4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

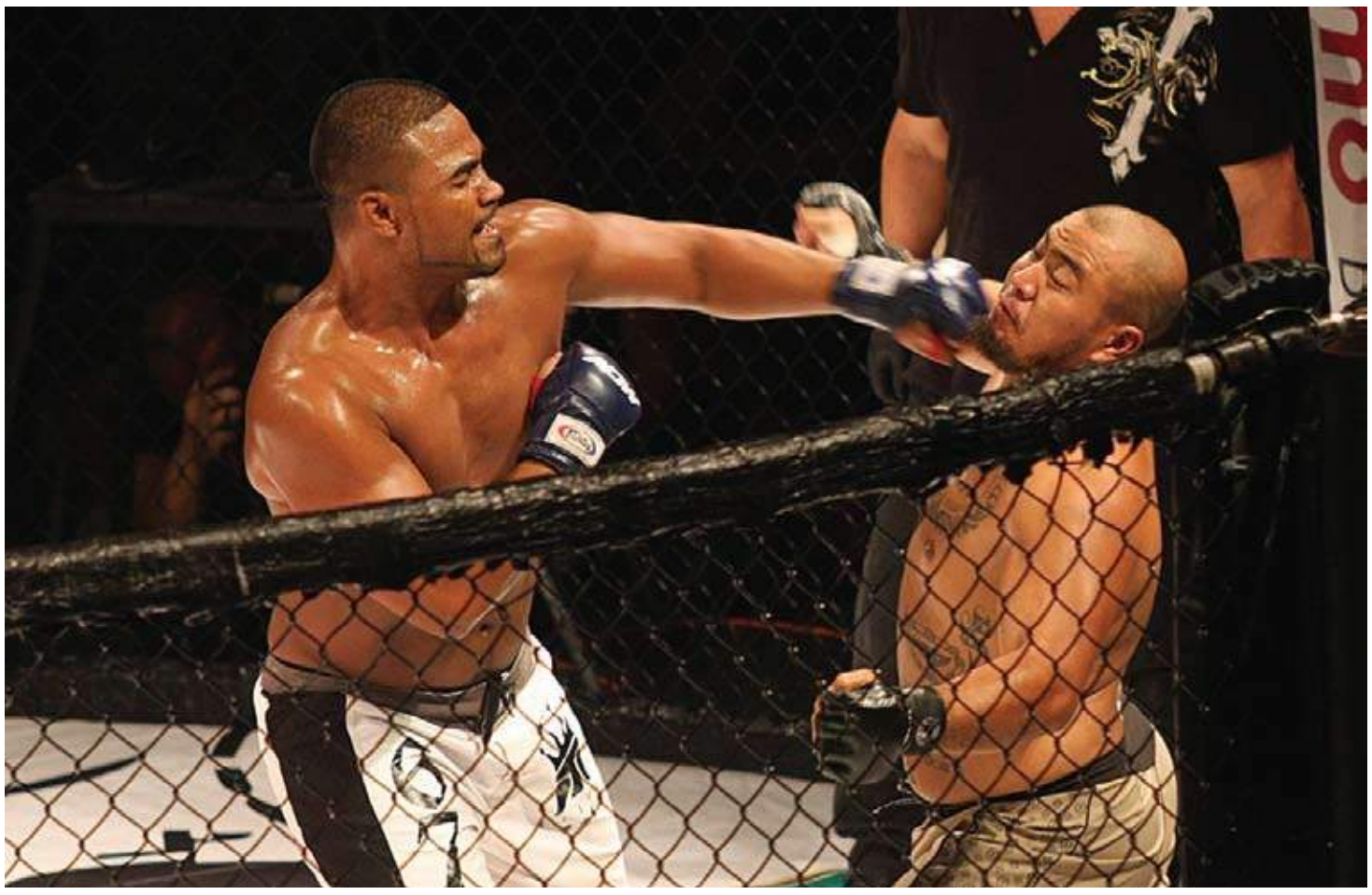
LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	4	0
Sonics	5	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	3	2
670 Rollers 2	2	2
Rollers 1	2	2
CK Saints	2	2
Ol'Aces	1	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	3
Hi-5	0	3
Celtics	0	5

PXC 18: Dead Game 2

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial pummels Guam's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa with vicious combinations during their heavyweight bout in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 held last Sept. 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Referee Tony D'Angelo raises Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse's arm after he defeated Guam's Brian "Shotgun" Howard via rear-naked chokehold at the 1:06 mark of the first round of their 155-lb. division bout.

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, left, and Kyle "Boom" Reyes grapple on the ground during their 145-lb. division match.

Guam's Toby "Big Tobz"Mesa lies unconscious on the mat for a couple of minutes after being knocked out by Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in PXC 18: Dead Game 2 held last Sept. 19 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

Giovanni "Palaxi" Sablan, seen here body-slamming Guam's Kyle "Boom" Reyes, came out the aggressor in their 145-lb. division match but lost steam in the end and lost via chokehold.

J.J. Ambrose, of the U.S. mainland, goes on the offensive against "Kill" Bill Saures in their 180-lb. division match. Saures tapped out after Ambrose executed a side-mount guillotine choke.

"Tabi" Jay Muna catches Guam's Justin "The Shocker" Cruz with a kick on the face in their bout in PXC 18: Dead Game 2.

"Tabi" Jay Muna was valiant in defeat against Justin "The Shocker" Cruz, struggling more than a minute to break free from the Guamanian's guillotine hold before eventually submitting.

Pacquiao will knock Cotto out, says Roach

Manny Pacquiao to beat Miguel Cotto by decision? Trainer Freddie Roach is having second thoughts.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Red Sox clinch playoff berth despite loss

The Boston Red Sox are back in the playoffs for the sixth time in seven years.

24

Joshua sees action in triathlon today

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI's Joshua Manglona and 24 other multi-sport athletes will see action in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games when triathlon competition begins this morning, a day after the quadrennial event was shocked by the news about devastating tsunamis that hit the region.

Manglona will be participating in the Olympic distance course, which features a 1.5-km swim leg, 40-km bike part, and 10-km run leg and will take triathletes around Avatiu and Nikao area.

Prior to today's race, Manglona had only one chance to trace the entire triathlon course due to the bad weather last week. However, the Tinian resident is hoping that the training sessions he had back home will be enough to give him a good finish in today's race.

Manglona will be racing against triathletes from the Cook Islands, Samoa, New Caledonia, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tahiti, and Tonga.

Games marred by tragedy

Intense games in Rugby League Sevens were marred by tragedy when tsunamis hit Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga yesterday.

Oceania Table Tennis Federation reported on its website that tsunamis caused by an earthquake in the South Pacific killed over 65 people in Samoa and over 20 in American Samoa and injured at least 145 people and destroyed villages.

A strong earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter Scale struck at 17.48 GMT on Tuesday (05.48 in Samoa) generating 15-foot (4.5 metres) waves in some areas of the islands, the report added.

Both Samoa and American Samoa are just a short distance northwest of Rarotonga, the Cook Islands capital that is hosting the Mini Pacific Games thus a tsunami warning was issued for the host country.

Table tennis players and officials during a break in the games offered prayers and a moment of silence to remember those who died in the tragedy and those who have been af-

See JOSHUA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI triathlete Joshua Manglona is seen here getting a hug from Kuki the Kukupa, the official mascot of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club swimmers and their parents pose for a group photo after picking up trash at Ladder Beach during the International Coastal Cleanup Day last month.

Swimmers clean up Ladder Beach

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club participated in the International Coastal Cleanup Day last month, giving back the good things that Saipan's beaches have given to the club.

Around 30 SSC swimmers, who use the beach for ocean swim tournaments, and their parents collected 12 bags of trash from Ladder Beach during last month's beach and water clean drive.

"It is an honor for SSC to be able to contribute to the community in this way, and SSC looks forward to many more community involvement projects such

See SCC on Page 26

G-Stars keep unbeaten record

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The G-Stars remained the lone undefeated team in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League,

See G-STARS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The G-Stars' Marvin Rabauliman, seen here losing his balance on his way to the basket in their game against the Saints in the Rotary caging, scored all his 12 points in the second half to power his team to a 72-48 win over the Celtics on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SPORTS TLIGHT

Name: **Kirk W. Schuler**
Age: **29**
Sports: **Tennis, Basketball, Soccer**
Job: **Assistant United States Attorney**
Favorite Player: **Roger Federer**

Having fun on Saipan's playground

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kirk Schuler has joined the growing list of Saipan athletes who are into multi-sports and enjoying the island's playground.

Schuler, who is a lawyer by profession, is into tennis, basketball, and soccer for now.

"I feel very lucky to live on a playground. Saipan has such a wide range of sports and outdoor activities to offer. It's easy to get involved, easy to have fun, and a great way to meet new friends," said the Assistant United States Attorney.

Though there are obvious differences in the sports he plays, the Mission Viejo, California native said they also have a lot of similarities, which makes it easy for him to get involved in various sports.

See HAVING on Page 26